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THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 4-5, 1990/JAMADIUL AWWAL 8-9, 1410 AH

20 PAGES 150 FILLS

Filipinos asked to register weapons

MANILA, Jan 3, (Agencies): President Corazon Aquino swore in nine new cabinet members today and called for teamwork to solve the nation's problems in the wake of last month's bloody coup attempt. Using emergency powers, Aquino later ordered that all firearms be registered anew. Meanwhile, opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile denied allegations that he was linked to the Dec 1-9 coup attempt. He called the charges a witchhunt aimed at eliminating Aquino's opponents.

Congress also expanded the powers of a commission investigating the coup attempt, giving it the right, among other things, to look into bank accounts of suspected coup supporters.

A consolidated version of bills from the Senate and House of Representatives creating the commission was passed in both chambers, called into special session by Aquino to approve the legislation.

Sen. Jose Lina, chairman of the Senate negotiators for the final version, said the commission would investigate last month's attempted coup and recommend "measures which will prevent similar attempts at a violent seizure of power."

The military today filed rebellion charges against four officers and 16 soldiers and civilians accused of joining the failed attempt.

Charged by the military judge, the officers' names were Lt. Col. Eduardo Matillano and Rodolfo Tor, Capt. Antonio de la Cruz, Sgt. Bulo, Rolando de Gracia and 15 other individuals.

Only Matillano and De Gracia are in custody. The military has offered rewards of up to \$47,600 for information leading to the capture of 15 coup leaders, including Tor.

The bill gives the commission quasi-judicial powers, including the right to grant immunity from prosecution to witnesses. It protects witnesses against self-incrimination in testimony they are forced to give before the commission.

It also allows the commission to require the monetary board to disclose information or grant authority to examine bank accounts if it has "reasonable ground" to believe the funds were used in the coup attempt.

In ordering new gun registration, Aquino also directed the armed forces to conduct an inventory of all their firearms, explosives, ammunition and other military equipment, including those on loan to civilians.

A law granting the President emergency powers, lasting until July, allows Aquino to issue orders to recover firearms allegedly used in the military rebellion, but Congress has required her to seek court warrants.

The order did not state when the new registration would begin. The Department of National Defence was to draw up guidelines.

The government, private security agencies and civilians held at least 453,300 licensed firearms, and more than 189,000 unlicensed guns were recorded in the first four months of 1989.

(See Page 2)

Unify Azerbaijan with Iran: rioters

Kremlin sends troops to stop rampage

MOSCOW, Jan 3, (Agencies): The government rushed more border troops to the southern republic of Azerbaijan today to try to stop a rampage by thousands of people along the boundary with Iran, a newspaper reported.

The government daily Izvestia said more than 4,000 people tore down guard towers and destroyed electronic alarms along the border. The official Soviet news agency said one person had died.

The rioters want southern Azerbaijan to be unified with northern

Iran and have threatened to remove all barriers at the border unless authorities remove them, the newspaper reported.

Azerbaijanis have said they merely want the right to freely visit friends and relatives on the other side of the border.

The Tass news agency said today one person was killed in a clash among the protesters. Border guards did not use their weapons and none of them was hurt. The dispatch did not say how many protesters were injured.

Izvestia estimated the damage at more than five million roubles (\$8.2 million).

Soviet envoy asked to leave Aoun faces isolation

BEIRUT, Jan 3, (UPI): Diplomatic sources in East Beirut said today that Gen. Michel Aoun was facing growing isolation at the diplomatic level and mounting political opposition inside the Christian enclave.

A diplomatic source, who requested anonymity, said Aoun's call on the Soviet ambassador to leave Lebanon was "a sign of political bankruptcy."

Aoun yesterday accused the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, Vassili Klotoucha, of "diplomatic insolence" and asked him to leave the country because of his recent remarks supporting President Elias Hiriawi's right to use the Syrian Army to subdue Aoun.

Kolotoucha said last Saturday after meeting with Hiriawi that an Arab League-sponsored peace plan for Lebanon endorsed by Lebanese legislatures in Taif, Saudi Arabia, Oct 22 will be carried out completely.

Asked what would be the attitude of the Soviet Union if Hiriawi asked for Syrian military assistance to extend state sovereignty on all Lebanese territory, Kolotoucha said: "This is the right of the Lebanese legitimacy." (See Page 7)

Weizman claims 80pc victory

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 3, (Reuters): Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman left today for an official visit to the Soviet Union after surviving a showdown over charges that he met a PLO official and co-operated with Israel's most dangerous enemies.

Weizman, who flew first to Vienna, claimed victory after the two-day crisis ended in a compromise that left him demoted in the government, led by rightist Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"In a compromise, there is never 100 per cent," the dovish Labour Party minister told Israeli television late on Tuesday.

Israeli media quoted members of Shamir's Likud Party as criticizing the premier for agreeing to the compromise. Weizman was dismissed from the policy-making inner cabinet but allowed to remain science minister.

Weizman's Soviet visit, only the second by an Israeli minister since Moscow severed relations over the 1967 Middle East war, sparked controversy during the government crisis.

Shamir's office hinted that Weizman, a former defence minister and air force chief, planned to meet a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official in Moscow.

The Israeli newspaper Hada-shot named the official as Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee.

Weizman denied the report and promised Shamir he would meet no PLO members during his eight-day trip to Moscow and Leningrad.

Meanwhile, the reported mid-dleman between Weizman and PLO has refused to confirm that role, but said he would continue efforts to promote Arab-Israeli peace, a Jordanian newspaper reported today.

"I refused to confirm or deny reports that I am the contact between the PLO and Weizman," Ahmad Tibi told the Jordan Times.

Israeli newspapers said today that intelligence officials were angered at the way Shamir used classified information to expose a cabinet minister's contacts with the PLO.

The reports suggested it may have harmed state security and affected the information-gathering capabilities of the Mossad and Shin Bet, Israel's external and internal intelligence agencies.

Avi Pazner, a Shamir spokesman, said the reports were "groundless" and that the prime minister "did not make any public use of secret material."

In fact, Pazner said, Shamir withheld secret material so as not to jeopardize intelligence methods and sources.



Hamas leader on trial

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, 54, the paralyzed leader of the Palestinian Islamic resistance movement Hamas, is wheeled into Gaza military court. Yassin was read a 15-count indictment charging him with recruiting the killers of two Israeli soldiers and ordering the deaths of suspected Palestinian collaborators. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israeli child trade

Four orthodox Jews held

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 3, (AP): Four religious Israelis have been detained on suspicion of conspiring to kidnap dozens of children and illegally hand them over for adoption in Israel and the United States, a police spokesman said today.

Israeli news reports said the four people detained were orthodox Jews suspected of kidnapping children on religious motives, sometimes from mixed Jewish-Arab marriages. The kidnapping victims were often babies and toddlers, the Haaretz daily said.

Roni Yeshayahu, a spokesman for national police, said the suspects, three men and a woman, were taken for questioning yesterday and that the men were still in custody today.

The woman, who is suspected of selling children overseas, was put under house arrest today because of an illness, Israel radio said.

Yeshayahu said the suspects "are suspected of violations linked to the illegal adoption of children, conspiracy to kidnap children for their adoptive parents, and suspicion of transferring children abroad illegally." He refused to give details.

40 feared dead as Pakistani bridge collapses

LAHORE, Jan 3, (AP): About 40 people may have been drowned when a bridge collapsed in northeastern Pakistan, plunging workmen and onlookers into a swift canal, officials said today.

Fog hampered attempts to rescue survivors and recover bodies after the accident occurred last night near the village of Hafizabad, about 50 miles (80 kilometres) northeast of Lahore, police said.

Fog was still thick at daybreak as police abandoned a search along the banks and began stringing nets downstream.

"We are unable to do what we want to do because of the fog," said a district police official, speaking on the usual condition of anonymity.

Witnesses said that seven workmen were dismantling the century-old, 70-foot (21-metre) long bridge while several onlookers huddled at the ends.

It gave way on one side, tossing one workman and dozens of other people about 16 feet (5 metres) into the swift lower Chenab canal, they said.

The nearby hospital at Hafizabad, about 4 miles (6 km) from the site of the accident, where the bodies were being brought, said it had received 40 bodies by noon today.



Attempt on life

Unknown assailants raked the home of the Lebanese Christian military police chief with machine gun fire before dawn yesterday in an assassination attempt that killed at least five people, police said.

Lt Col. Adel Sassin escaped unhurt as his guards battled with the attackers in the mountain resort town of Beit Meri in the Christian enclave, a police spokesman said.

Picture shows a man and his wife, holding AK-47 rifles, shout in support of Amel militia battling Hezbollah. (Reuters wirephoto)

No to plebiscite

GUWAHATI, India, Jan 3, (Reuters): Prime Minister Vishwanath Singh said today India would not agree to a United Nations-mandated plebiscite on Kashmir, where militants are waging a campaign for independence.

"Kashmir is very much an integral part of India and one should never attempt to reopen history," he told reporters in Guwahati, capital of India's northeastern Assam state, when asked if he would consider a plebiscite.

The United Nations, which has had a military observer group in Kashmir since 1948, maintains India should hold a referendum to determine whether Kashmiris want to be independent, remain within India or become part of Pakistan.

The Kashmir government last month freed five jailed separatist militants in exchange for the kidnapped daughter of Indian Home Minister Mulvi Muhammad Sayed.

Up to 1,500 people detained in India during a three-year crackdown on Sikh militancy may be released soon as a peace gesture, officials said today.

Officials in the northern state of Punjab said they were drawing up a list of up to 1,500 detainees, held for offences such as sheltering militants, who would be eligible for release.

A Home (interior) Ministry spokesman in New Delhi said it was possible detainees on the list would be released soon.

About 12,000 people had been detained in Punjab under anti-terrorist laws, according to official figures.

India's new government said today it was inviting all political parties, including Sikh hardliners, to a public meeting in Punjab on January 11 as part of efforts to end separatist strife.

It is seeking to win over public opinion in the state after the previous government's policy of tough security force action failed to halt daily killings.

Political sources in New Delhi said the minority government of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh did not want to commit itself to major concessions without some guarantees that pressure would be put on the militants to end the violence.

Singh's government is dependent on the parliamentary support of the Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party. Many victims of Sikh militant violence in Punjab have been Hindus.

Singh has ruled out conceding to demands by the militants for an independent Sikh homeland, which they call Khalistan.

But he is trying to win over hardliners such as Simranjit Singh Mann, elected to Parliament from a jail cell in the November polls.

Mann, who has now been released, has said he wants autonomy for an expanded Punjab within India.

(See Page 7)

Deal likely on Noriega

WASHINGTON, Jan 3, (Reuters): The White House, in an apparent policy shift, refused today to rule out letting deposed Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega seek asylum in some third country.

"We've never said no third country. What we have said is we want him to come back to the United States (to stand trial) but we're not going to rule out every other alternative," spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Fitzwater's comments seemed to open the door to a deal that could break the standoff with the Vatican embassy. (See Page 4)

(See Page 4)

PAY BY DAY

The Ministry of Finance has permitted importers to reclaim customs charges on re-exported goods.

All countries of the world had such a measure and Kuwait though late in implementing it has taken a good step forward. However, we want this measure to be extended to cover goods of different customs manifests — instead of insisting that they should be in one manifest.

The concept is to restore the prosperity of the retail and transit trade to its past glory.

Zahed Matar

Missing Sikh MP's body recovered from a canal

CHANDIGARH, Jan 3, (UPI): Divers today recovered from a canal the body of a newly elected Sikh member of Parliament associated with extremists fighting in Punjab state for the creation of an independent Sikh nation, police said.

Police and officials reiterated a belief that Jagdev Singh Kudian committed suicide. Kudian's party, however, contended he had been murdered by unnamed enemies.

Kudian, 55, disappeared on Dec 28, from his home in the Faridkot district village from which he took his name, and that afternoon police recovered from the banks of the nearby Rajasthan feeder canal his turban, shawl and shoes.

Police said divers found the body today in the canal about two miles downstream from where Kudian's belongings were discovered.

The corpse was brought to a hospital in Faridkot, about 130 miles (210 km) west of the state capital of Chandigarh, for an autopsy, police said.

Kudian had been the target of an intense search since his disappearance, with authorities slowly lowering the water level in the canal to aid divers and hundreds of security personnel scouring the surrounding area with the help of helicopters.

Officials initially suspected he had been kidnapped, but later said they believed he committed suicide as relations reported that he had been depressed because of a lengthy and acrimonious land dispute with family members.

They also said he had been threatened by Sikh militants for taking his parliamentary oath in violation of a directive that he not do so until the new government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh grant a set of political demands.

Kudian, a veteran politician and former state official, was member of a faction of the Sikh Akali Dal party associated with Sikh extremists.

Palestinian dissidents offer reunification

DAMASCUS, Jan 3, (AP): Syrian-backed Palestinian dissidents are considering a proposal for reuniting with Yasser Arafat's mainstream PLO after a 7-year feud, a senior official said today.

Khaled Fahoum, chairman of the Palestine National Salvation Front, a loose coalition of dissidents who had sought Arafat's ouster as PLO chairman, said: "I have presented an initiative to reconcile all Palestinian factions under the PLO."

He told reporters the three leaders of the PNSF groups — Col. Saeed Mousa of the self-styled Fatah-uprising, Ahmed Jibril of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and Issam Kadi, head of Saika — have agreed to study my proposal and give me their replies as soon as possible.

Saika and the PFLP-GC have been suspended from the PLO which groups seven other factions.

The PFLP-GC has been blamed for the mid-air explosion of the Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland in December 1988, in which 270 people were killed. Jibril, a former Syrian Army captain backed by Libya, has denied the charge.

But his return to the PLO might compromise Arafat's peace overtures and jeopardize the dialogue Washington agreed to open with the PLO 13 months ago after Arafat explicitly renounced terrorism.

Fahoum did not disclose details of his initiative, and there was no official reaction from the PLO.

But he said Suleiman Najib, a member of the Palestine Communist Party, one of Arafat's loyalist factions, has welcomed the initiative.

"The PLO is always open for the return of those who split from it," Fahoum quoted Najib, a member of the PLO's ruling 15-man executive committee, as saying.

Weather

CLOUDY weather with moderate southerly wind may freshen at times with chance of scattered rain.

State of sea: moderate to rough

High water: 4.00 am, 5.00 pm

Low water: 11.00 am, 11.30 pm

Sunrise: 6.45 am

Sunset: 5.00 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 17°C 63°F

Ahmed: 15°C 59°F

Salina: 15°C 59°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 10°C 50°F

Ahmed: 10°C 50°F

Salina: 10°C 50°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 17°C 63°F

Ahmed: 15°C 59°F

Salina: 15°C 59°F

Minimum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 10°C 50°F

Ahmed: 10°C 50°F

Salina: 10°C 50°F

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Hanoi party chief to quit

Do Muoi likely successor

HANOI, Jan 3, (Reuters): Vietnamese Communist Party secretary general Nguyen Van Linh will resign at a forthcoming party meeting, Vietnamese officials said today.

Officials said Linh, who is 74 and has been ill since late October, would step down from the party's top post for health reasons at a plenum of its central committee.

They said the meeting would be held within two months. "He is too old. There will be a party plenum after Tet (Vietnamese lunar new year)," said Bui Tin, deputy chief editor of the Communist Party daily Nhan Dan. He said Nguyen's successor would be decided then.

The three-day Tet holiday starts on Jan 27.

One Eastern European diplomat said: "He has to step down because of his health. If they want to make the Communist Party stronger they need another leader."

Hailed

Vietnamese officials in Hanoi said Linh, hailed as a reformer in the mould of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev when he was elected party general-secretary in late 1986, has been ill since catching a severe cold during a visit to East Germany last October.

Officials said the party meeting, to be held at the latest by early March, would accept his resignation and agree on someone to replace him.

But they said any decision on his successor would have to be approved at a full congress of party members which they said would not be held until next year.

"There will be a swapping of posts by the top three or four at this party plenum or the congress," one diplomat said. "But apart from Linh it will be the same old boys at the top," he added.

Vietnam, frightened by the crumbling of Communist rule among its Eastern European allies, has cracked down on internal dissent and confirmed its commitment to holding a one-party socialist state.

The Communist Party, which has ruled the north for the past 36 years and the whole country since its forces toppled the US-backed Republic of South Vietnam in 1975, cautiously embraced Soviet-style reforms in 1987 but has not relaxed its sole grip on power.

Declined

Vietnamese officials declined to speculate on who would replace Linh, but diplomats said the most likely candidate was Prime Minister Do Muoi, who last month was elected to the additional job of vice chairman of the National Defence Council. Diplomats said that appointment gave him the same control as powerful late Premier Pham Hung and confirmed his seniority over Vice Premier Vo Van Kiet, also seen as a contender for party leadership.

Officials said Linh, a northerner, was currently living in the southern city of Ho Chi Minh, formerly Saigon, where he was being treated for a problem with a facial nerve.

State-run radio reported him on Monday as visiting troops in the south, one of the few public appearances he has made since October.

HK may send boat people to secret camp

HONG KONG, Jan 3, (Reuters): Hong Kong is considering moving batches of Vietnamese boat people to a camp in an area patrolled by the military, a move aid workers say could allow forcible repatriations free from the glare of publicity. The camp at San Uk Ling lies in a border area patrolled by soldiers and police searching for illegal immigrants trying to sneak in from China. Hong Kong people need permits to enter the zone.

"San Uk Ling is being considered ... and minor works are being carried out there," a police spokesman said today.

Aid workers at Hong Kong camps say they believe the camp will serve as a temporary holding centre for boat people who are next in line to be sent back against their will.

"I don't know how they will get them out of the camps in the first place but they can almost guarantee no publicity," a volunteer who moves from camp to camp said by telephone.

Hong Kong attracted stinging international criticism when 51 Vietnamese boat people were pulled from their beds at dead of night last month and placed against their will on a chartered flight to

Hanoi.

Scores of journalists besieged the holding centre, where the 51 asylum-seekers spent their final days in Hong Kong, and reported on their departure despite government attempts at secrecy.

The police spokesman said San Uk Ling had been emptied of illegal Chinese immigrants billeted there pending their repatriation to China.

He said no firm decision had been taken on whether to use the centre for Vietnamese and declined to comment on local newspaper reports that the first group would be moved into the 600-bed

facility as early as Monday.

Rumours that Hong Kong was on the verge of forcibly repatriating a second group spread through an island camp on Friday provoking rioting in which 14 Vietnamese and 26 guards and police were injured.

Violence raged for about six hours before more than 300 riot police and 100 rounds of teargas quelled the rioting.

Hong Kong officials have said forcible repatriation will resume as soon as possible, probably this month.



Going to attend meeting

Philippine President Corazon Aquino walks with newly appointed Transportation and Communications Secretary Oscar Orbes before the start of

cabinet meeting at the presidential palace. Aquino revamped her cabinet recently after a failed coup. (Reuters wirephoto)

Barbara sees double

Radiation treatment

WASHINGTON, Jan 3, (AP): First Lady Barbara Bush today began the first of 10 days of radiation treatment for eyes swelling and impaired vision resulting from a troublesome thyroid condition, her office said.

Mrs Bush went to Walter Reed army medical centre for the 10-minute treatment, which will be repeated for each of the next nine days, said spokeswoman Jean Becker.

The wife of President George Bush suffers from Graves' disease which has resulted in a swelling behind her eyes, tearing and double vision. The radiation, focused on bony canals behind the eyes, called orbits, is intended to reduce the swelling, Becker said.

The radiation treatment will not prevent Mrs Bush from carrying out her normal schedule, the spokeswoman said.

Mrs Bush, 64, was diagnosed with Graves' disease last year and was prescribed the drug Prednisone to treat the eye side effect.

81 die as rival Tamils battle

COLOMBO, Jan 3, (Reuters): At least 81 people were killed in clashes between two rival Tamil groups in Sri Lanka's northern Vavuniya district this week, security sources and residents said today.

They said 55 men of an illegal Tamil militia were shot dead when fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam stormed their camp at Musalkuthy.

The Tigers lost three men in the fighting on Sunday and Monday, the sources said.

A resident at Vavuniya, who had visited the battle scene 30 km (20 miles) away, said the Tigers had driven away the soldiers of the illegal militia known as the Tamil National Army (TNA) and taken control of the area.

The TNA was raised by another Tamil group, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front and its allies, to protect themselves from the Tigers, security sources said.

The resident said 300 people in Musalkuthy had fled their homes following the fighting and taken refuge in a school.

The Tigers, the dominant Tamil rebel group, has taken control of five districts in the northeastern region vacated by Indian troops in the past two months, residents said.

The security source said, Tamil rebels had gone on a looting rampage in the villages bordering the eastern Batticaloa district. The extremists, armed with an assortment of rifles, had entered the houses of rich businessmen and looted their belongings adding even LTTE cadres were hijacking state owned vehicles.

Meanwhile, the security situation in the southern and central parts of the country remains calm, with the arrest of several regional leaders of the extremist group, the JVP or People's Liberation Front by the government troops.

Intrigue follows sex Shapely legs

MANILA, Jan 3, (AP): The former land reform secretary says intrigue follows sex as the second most popular sport in the Philippines and she wants to be remembered for shapely legs, and not alleged links to coup plotters.

Miriam Defensor Santiago was replaced Sunday as secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform in a major cabinet shakeup. Her name reportedly appeared on a list of possible members of a junta to be installed if military mutineers had toppled President Corazon Aquino last month.

"I appeal to you not to include my name in your junta list again because it gets me into trouble," Mrs Santiago told reporters yesterday. "Instead, you may include me in the list of Filipinas with the most shapely legs."

Mrs Santiago also complained that her tenure in the Agrarian Reform Department was undermined by political intrigue in the Aquino administration.

"In this country, intrigue is the second most popular indoor sport, second only to sex," she said.

Mrs Santiago's departure from government removes one of the most colourful figures in the Aquino administration.

As immigration commissioner, Mrs Santiago once publicly called a congressional critic a "funny-face" and suggested he stick his finger in an electrical socket. She then challenged the congressman to a fist-fight, an offer he never accepted.

Understanding in Indo-Nepal talks

Crown prince is now adult

NEW DELHI, Jan 3, (UPI): The month-old National Front government moved today to fulfil an election vow to seek better relations with India's neighbours, opening talks with Nepal on a lengthy trade dispute on which an official said "an understanding is likely."

Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral held hour-long talks with his Nepalese counterpart, Shailendra Upadhyaya, focusing on a serious dispute over trade and cross-border transit that prompted former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to impose an almost complete economic blockade on the tiny Hindu kingdom.

The blockade, in which New Delhi closed beginning last March all but two of 15 border points through which Kathmandu imports and exports goods via the Indian port of Calcutta, has produced chronic shortages of fuel and other items in impoverished landlocked Nepal.

The shortages have fueled unemployment and inflation. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the talks between Gujral and Upadhyaya and their delegations were "cordial and friendly" and added that "an understanding is likely" on resolving differences.

At a dinner later for his guest, Gujral said his government was willing to negotiate "an early, mutually acceptable and beneficial solution" to the dispute.

The discussions were scheduled to continue tomorrow. The dispute erupted after the expiry of bilateral treaties governing Indo-Nepalese trade and the transit through India of Nepalese imports and exports.

New Delhi also was unhappy about Kathmandu's purchase in 1988 of weapons from China, India's foe in a 1962 border war and its main rival for influence in Nepal, which is strategically sandwiched between Asia's two largest nations.

Crown Prince Dipendra formally became an adult today and the Hindu kingdom of Nepal celebrated with a national holiday, a 21-gun salute, and flags and fountains on main Kathmandu streets.

Kathmandu citizens came out to greet the 18-year-old future king as a six-horse carriage took him to a temple in the capital's centre to seek the blessing of Lord Ganesh, an elephant-headed deity, for his future public work.

109 die of cold in India

NEW DELHI, Jan 3, (AP): At least 109 people, most of them poor and homeless, have died of exposure to cold in northern India in the past two weeks, a news agency reported yesterday.

In neighbouring Bangladesh, 82 people have died in the same period, United News of Bangladesh news agency said.

Press Trust of India said most deaths in India were reported from the northern state of Bihar, which is also one of the poorest regions in the country.

The news agency, quoting meteorologists, said "there was no hope of a lull in the chilly spell (and) the cold is likely to continue throughout the next week."

Temperatures in the plains of northern India dipped to 1 degree Celsius (34 degrees Fahrenheit), PTI said. It said air and surface traffic have been hampered by the accompanying fog.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US raises reward: The United States has raised its reward to \$2 million for the capture of Greek pro-Marxist guerrillas who killed an American naval attaché in 1988, the US embassy said Tuesday. The offer was increased from a previous \$500,000 for information leading to the arrest of those who set off a remote-controlled car bomb which killed Captain William Nordeen on June 28, 1988, an embassy statement said.

The November 17 guerrilla group, which has killed 14 Greeks and Americans in the past 15 years, claimed responsibility for murdering Nordeen shortly after he left his home in a north Athens suburb to drive to work. (Reuters)

Carrington home burgled: A car dealer has been charged with burglary at the London home of the former British Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, it was reported Wednesday.

Gary Robertson, 31, from north London, who appeared at Horseferry Road Court, Westminster, central London, yesterday was remanded on 10,000 pound bail, the British media said this morning. He is accused of entering Lord Carrington's house in the fashionable area of Chelsea on January 1, and stealing two sets of cufflinks, three keys, foreign currency and a quantity of jewellery, together valued at £250. (Kuna)

Muslims to picket: Muslims from most large communities in Britain will picket the London offices of Penguin Books next week in protest against the Salman Rushdie's controversial novel.

The demonstrations will lead up to the first anniversary of the book burning in Bradford, northern England, which drew national attention to Muslim objections to Salman Rushdie's controversial novel. Ishtiaq Ahmed, of the Bradford Council of Mosques, which is organising the protest told the Independent newspaper today that their main aim was to stop the paperback of the novel being published. (Kuna)

Police find hashish: Police found over 10 million marks (\$2.5 million) worth of hashish in a car near Lahdi, in southern Finland, the Iltä-Sanomat newspaper reported Wednesday. The find of 116 kilograms (260 lbs) is the largest to date made by the Finnish police, said the report. Lahdi is 90 kilometres (56 miles) north of the Finnish capital.

A middle-aged Finnish man, who has no previous record of involvement in illicit drugs, was arrested in connection with the find, police said. (AP)

Drug fatalities up 40 per cent: Deaths from illegal drug use rose nearly 40 per cent in West Germany in 1989, with 980 reported last year, officials said Tuesday.

Frankfurt, with a population of about 600,000, topped the list of West German cities with the highest per capita drug death toll. Officials said drugs killed 80 people in Frankfurt in 1989, compared with 94 deaths in West Berlin, which has a population of more than 2 million.

In 1988 Frankfurt had 62 confirmed drug deaths, compared to 80 in West Berlin. (AP)

Reagan's lawyers seek delay: Lawyers for former president Ronald Reagan are trying to delay defence attempts to subpoena him as a witness at the Iran-Contra trial of ex-National Security Adviser John M. Poindexter.

Reagan's lawyers called Poindexter's attempt to subpoena the former president an unprecedented action that raises "substantial constitutional questions."

In court papers filed Tuesday, they urged US district Judge Harold Greene to postpone any decision on the subpoena until prosecutors have rested their case in the trial, set to begin Feb 20. (AP)

Police arrest 3 Iranians: Police arrested three Iranians and seized three kilograms of heroin and weapons in what was termed a blow to an international drug smuggling ring, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Police seized the heroin in the trunk of a rented car in a public garage in the suburb of Hortaleza, northeast of Madrid, said the spokesman, who was not identified in keeping with custom.

Anti-drug agents arrested suspected ringleader Ali Said Safavi, 30, Said Pedran, 23, and Emad Nakhaie, 27, all of Iran, he added.

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مكاتب الأمل

US tests milk for harmful chemicals

WASHINGTON, Jan 3, (AP) — The US Food and Drug Administration said yesterday that it has begun testing retail milk supplies in 13 cities after an independent survey found samples in several areas tainted with potentially harmful drugs.

The FDA said that while it "is concerned that these unconfirmed findings may indicate a widespread drug residue in milk," it sees "no public health threat associated with animal drug residues in milk at the levels reported by the Wall Street Journal."

The journal's survey, reported Friday, found that of 50 retail samples collected in 10 major cities, 38 per cent were contaminated with antibiotics and sulfa drugs used to treat sick cattle, including sulfamethazine, a suspected carcinogen.

Another survey by the Centre for Science in the public interest tested 20 milk samples from store shelves in metropolitan Washington and found 20 per cent were tainted, the newspaper reported.

The FDA last year revised labeling for sulfamethazine to warn against using it in lactating dairy cows for any reason because of recent studies finding that at high levels it can cause tumours in mice and rats.

In 1988, the FDA tested retail milk supplies in 10 cities and found sulfamethazine in five of 49 samples at more than the allowable limit of 10 parts per billion.

In response, the FDA launched a nationwide education programme to alert state and industry officials to the problem.

In announcing the 13-city milk survey, the FDA said "dairy farmers must... take responsibility for avoiding use of sulfamethazine, the drug found which is not approved for dairy cows."

The 13 cities where milk is being tested are: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Miami, Chicago, Miami, Minneapolis-St Paul, Kansas City, Denver, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle.

Symbolic trip to Antarctic

Cousteau takes kids from around world

NEW YORK, Jan 3, (AP) — Jacques Cousteau and his son, Jean-Michel, are headed for Antarctica this week, leading an expedition with six children representing the world's other continents.

"We are going on behalf of the generations to come — the children of tomorrow," said Jean-Michel Cousteau. "We decided to have them step on this virgin land, as big as the continental United States, and have them realise it will be their responsibility to either care for it or exploit it."

Jacques Cousteau, the 79-year-old ocean explorer known for his television specials and environmental activism, has been promoting a French-Australian proposal to make Antarctica a nature reserve.

The United States and Britain oppose the idea,

urging instead for an international minerals treaty that would permit regulated mining there.

The expedition was to sail today from Punta Arenas, Chile, and arrive in Antarctica on Saturday, weather permitting.

Jean-Michel Cousteau was in New York yesterday and planned to catch up with the group in Antarctica later.

The children will talk to scientists and observe the Cousteau team. Divers will film the wreck of an Argentinean supply ship, Bahia Paraíso. The resulting oil spill hindered experiments into the ozone depletion.

South America will be represented by Jeronimo

Brunner, 11, of Santiago, Chile.

The other children are: Cory Gillmer, 12, a sixth grader from Virginia Beach, Virginia, representing North America; Kelly Jean Matheson of Hobart, Australia, a fifth grader whose age was not given; Fumiko Matsumoto, 11, of Hamamatsu, Japan, representing Asia; Eliose Otzenberger, 11, of Paris, representing Europe; and Oko Joseph Skio, 12, of Tanzania, hometown unknown, representing Africa.

All except Brunner and Gillmer attend schools in Paris.

Charles Vinick, a spokesman for the Cousteau Society, said there was no particular criteria for selecting the students.



Cousteau holds up a flag during a press conference Jan 2. (Reuters wirephoto)



Nadia's brother

Adrian Comaneci, 22-year-old brother of Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Nadia Comaneci, surveys his sister's bedroom and her doll collection. He is wearing a T-shirt which has the slogan "Long life to Romanian liberty" printed on it. (Reuters wirephoto)

Redoubt erupts again in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Jan 3, (AP) — Airline flights were cancelled and residents marvelled at a spectacular light show, as Redoubt volcano shot ash into the sky in its biggest eruption since waking from a 25-year sleep.

The Alaska volcano Observatory said the eruption shortly before 6 pm yesterday (0300 GMT) today was Redoubt's biggest since seismic activity began Dec 13.

Pilots reported a plume as high as 40,000 feet (12,200 metres) and said lava appeared to be flowing down the volcano's north-west flank 115 miles (185 kilometres) southwest of Anchorage, observatory scientists said.

A radio station near Kenai, across Cook Inlet from the volcano, was swamped with calls from people who saw lights in the sky.

"We've had listeners on the air reporting what looked like heated, falling stones," said John Davis of Station KSRM. He said people parked their cars near inlet beaches to watch the display.

Geologist Robert McGimsey of the observatory in Anchorage said it was possible the reported lava flow was a mixture of ash and not gas. He said scientists would have to wait until daylight to investigate.

The volcano spewed an "extensive ash plume," McGimsey said. Another geologist at the observatory, Don Richter, said late last night that it appeared most of the has had settled before reaching populated areas.

Richter said "a number of strong but less severe (seismic) event's occurred a t about 8 pm (0500 GMT) today.

The Federal Aviation Administration advised pilots to "continually evaluate operations to and from Anchorage." A number of flights scheduled for last night and this morning were cancelled, and some night flights were diverted to other airports.

Scientists have been monitoring the volcano around the clock. The peak erupted three weeks ago and spewed ash 33,000 feet (10,000 metres) into the air the next day. Varying levels of seismic activity continued through the month.

Last month, Christmas travellers and mail were delayed and Anchorage air traffic slowed to a trickle after a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Boeing 747 flew through ash, lost power to all four engines and fell more than 2 miles (3 kilometres). The plane made a safe emergency landing after the engines were restarted.

The habitation nearest the volcano, the drift river oil storage facility 20 miles (32 kilometres) away, was evacuated yesterday when scientists issued warnings about the upcoming eruption, the Alaska division of emergency services said.

Murder probe

Yard man in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya, Jan 3, (AP) — A top Scotland Yard investigator travelled to the Masai Mara Game Reserve today to begin probing the 1988 murder of a 28-year-old British woman, according to the British High Commission.

Ken Thompson, a chief superintendent for the British criminal investigative body, arrived yesterday and immediately began talks with Kenyan police on the murder of Julie Ward, whose death was the focus of a highly publicised Kenyan inquest last year.

The 23-day inquest, conducted by chief magistrate Joseph Mango, ruled that Miss Ward had been murdered, despite the state's contention the wildlife photography enthusiast had been eaten by carnivorous animals in the sprawling southwestern game reserve.

Miss Ward's partly charred lower left leg and lower jaw were found in the reserve Sept 13, 1988, a week after she reportedly left the park.

'Batman' 1989's biggest blockbuster

US theatres reap record \$5b

LOS ANGELES, Jan 3, (AP) — North America's movie theatres reaped a record of more than \$5 billion at the box office in 1989, powered by the punch of "Batman" and other highly promoted action films.

Despite a lacklustre Christmas holiday season, summertime moviegoers spun the turnstiles at such a dizzying pace that the box-office record of \$4.45 billion from 1988 was smashed, according to figures released yesterday.

The official box-office total was set by fewer films: 446 features made their debuts in 1989, down 13 per cent from the previous year.

In the studio-by-studio race, Warner Bros was No.

1 with an estimated 17.1 per cent share of all US and Canadian tickets sold.

The studio's "Batman" was the year's biggest blockbuster. Its \$251.2 million in ticket sales was fifth-highest in history.

Although part of the revenue surge is attributable to higher ticket prices, admissions are projected to be greater than last year.

In large part, the record year was propelled by expensive and heavily marketed star vehicles such as "Batman," and "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," which made \$196 million and "Lethal Weapon 2," which collected \$147 million.

roles for Hispanics.

The 28-year-old comic, who plays a ski patrolman in the upcoming movie, "Ski Patrol," said in a recent interview that Hispanics "are being totally left out," of television sitcoms.

"When you look ethnic it's that much harder," he said. "Everyone is thin and caucasian and I don't look like that. ... I'd like to play a professional, an attorney, a guy who just works for a living, a 'thirtysomething'-type character."

He steers clear of ethnic stereotypes in movie and television roles. (AP)

ELGIN, Illinois: A car thief drove away with more than he had bargained for — a 4-year-old girl asleep in the front seat.

The car was found abandoned about an hour after the incident Sunday, and the child was still asleep, authorities said.

A woman had driven to a supermarket in this city 40 miles west of Chicago and left her

daughter asleep and the car's engine running, said Elgin police sergeant Norm Landwehr.

The woman, who was not identified by police, returned to find that her car and child were missing, Landwehr said.

Police in the neighbouring town of Streamwood received an anonymous call about a half-hour later, saying the car and the child could be found in the parking lot of a townhouse development there.

The child was reunited with her mother, police said. (AP)

PILSEN, Kansas: If Monsignor Arthur Tonne has his way, clergymen may soon be stand-up comedians a run for their money.

"A lot of priests can't tell jokes," Tonne says. "A lot of Protestant ministers can't, either. In fact, they probably even have a higher percentage who can't. Too many clergymen tend to be so serious about things, they just can't do it."

As the author of seven volumes of "Jokes Priests Can Tell," Tonne,

ES, has a talent for keeping his followers laughing.

Tonne said he goes to great lengths to make sure his humour is respectful. He uses the occasional ethnic jokes, but only after they have been approved by representative members of the targeted group.

He does not like sexual jokes, but admits that "you do remember the darned things." (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Actor Alan Hale Jr., who played the jovial skipper who led a zany band of castaways on television's "Gilligan's Island," has died after being hospitalised for cancer at age 68.

Hale died Tuesday at St Vincent's Hospital, where he had been a patient for about a month after being diagnosed with the disease a year ago, said Bonnie Churchill, a spokeswoman for his family.

A Los Angeles native, Hale appeared in 65 movies, but became a fixture on television thanks to the syndication of "Gilligan's Island."

Man goes out on shooting spree

7 die in Greenland massacre

NUUK, Greenland, Jan 3, (UPI) — The death toll in Greenland's worst ever mass killing rose to seven yesterday with the deaths of two hospitalised women who were shot in the face by an 18-year-old man, Narsaq police said.

Five people were killed outright in the shooting spree which took place Monday in a complex of boarding-house rooms in the southern Greenland hamlet of Narsaq, 400 km (250 miles) south of the capital Nuuk. Narsaq has a population of almost 2000.

"One 22-year-old man is still in hospital recovering from his wounds. His condition is serious but seems to be stable," police inspector Lars Heilmann told United Press International in a telephone interview from Narsaq.

"They were all shot in the face with a rifle. Five of them

died immediately. There was only small hope for the two women who were hospitalised," Heilmann said.

"It appears there had been a New Year's party, but we have no immediate indication of the motive," Heilmann added saying the scene that met police after the killings had been "bloody and gruesome."

Those killed were three men aged 18, 33 and 34 and four women aged 18, 19, 26 and 29. Their names were not released but all were said to be Greenlanders.

"This is the worst tragedy of its type ever in Greenland," Heilmann said.

The 18-year-old has admitted the killings. He has been remanded in custody for four weeks pending investigation and forensic reports," Heilmann said.



ANNOUNCEMENT

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Noriega aides' trials open

Noriega indicted on partial intelligence data

MIAMI, Jan 3. (AP) — Two co-defendants of deposed Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega appeared in court yesterday to face drug charges, but their lawyers challenged the US government's right to extradite them from Panama.

Daniel Miranda, 36, gave only his name and age through an interpreter to a federal magistrate. His attorney, Michael O'Kane, said Miranda would remain mute throughout the proceeding.

"This is a violation of the Panama Canal treaty," the defense lawyer argued. "It says that if there are any criminal acts, the defendant would be turned over to Panamanian authorities and not surrendered to the United States."

In another courtroom, Luis del Cid, whom prosecutors have called Noriega's "right-hand man," had his pre-trial detention hearing continued until Jan 16 so his lawyers can bring witnesses from Panama.

"As much as American citizens might like to see justice done to criminals all over the world, the United States is not an international police force," said Del Cid's lawyer, Samuel Burstyn. "The United States just can't go out and invade other countries and arrest whomever it wants."

Del Cid has been held in Miami since he surrendered to US troops in Panama's northern Chiriqui province on Christmas Eve and flown to Florida the next day.

Miranda was captured by US military personnel and Drug Enforcement Administration agents during a raid on his Panama City apartment on Sunday, then escorted to the Miami by agents of the US Drug Enforcement Administration on Monday.

An indictment issued here in February 1988 accuses Noriega and 15 other men — including Pablo Escobar Gaviria, leader of a cocaine cartel based in Medellin, Colombia — of running drugs and using Panama as a safe haven for traffickers.

US may face problems in trying general

WASHINGTON, Jan 3. (Agencies) — Federal prosecutors failed to conduct a thorough review of intelligence information before indicting Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega on drug charges, the Justice Department conceded yesterday.

Noriega, who remained in the Vatican mission in Panama as an impasse over his fate entered its second week, was indicted on drug charges in Florida in 1988. But his long association with the CIA and other US intelligence agencies has raised the prospect of Noriega obtaining intelligence files if he goes on trial in the United States.

Even if the United States get Noriega, putting him on trial may raise a number of legal problems.

First, Noriega's defence attorneys have served notice that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for their client to get a fair trial because of the widespread prejudicial publicity since the US military invasion began Dec 20.

David Runkel, chief spokesman for Attorney General Dick Thornburgh said prosecutors plan to proceed first in Miami and then will bring Noriega to trial on a three-count indictment returned by a grand jury in Tampa in 1988.

Noriega - Israeli ties on spotlight

WASHINGTON, Jan 3. (Reuters) — The bizarre case of an Israeli who was a close associate of Manuel Antonio Noriega and vanished in the turmoil of the US invasion of Panama has focused attention on the deposed general's shadow links with Israel.

US officials in Panama said last week that Mike Harari, a former senior officer in the Israeli Mossad intelligence service, had been captured by US troops. Two days later they admitted they were probably wrong.

"They thought they had him," said a senior US embassy official. "On further checking either they didn't have him — most probable — or he convinced them he was someone else."

Israeli television quoted sources close to Harari's family as saying he was in Israel. Other reports spoke of Harari, 62, being spotted in Nicaragua.

A US Defence Department spokesman said last week he was advised to answer questions about Harari by saying military officials had no knowledge of his having been captured.

The confusion prompted some speculation that the United States had quietly let Harari escape to avoid potential embarrassment. But analysts said it was more likely he was inadvertently released, if indeed he was ever detained.

"The intelligence on Noriega and the top Panamanian leadership was not particularly good prior to the invasion," said one analyst. "Look at how Noriega himself was able to wander around and finally find refuge at the Vatican embassy."

Another, who knew Harari, said it was entirely likely that he could have tricked US troops into letting him go.

"He is very intelligent, very highly-trained and he knows his way around Panama as few others do," the analyst said.

According to this analyst, who asked not to be named, Harari, a longtime business associate of Noriega, was the conduit for the general's blossoming relationship with the Israeli government.

"When the US ended its relationship with Noriega, he turned to the Israelis. They provided technicians and spare parts, fixed his helicopters and set up a communications network for the Panamanian military," he said.

Noriega himself seemed to have had ambivalent feelings about Israel. On the one hand the US military has produced evidence he kept a picture of Hitler in his voodoo chamber. On the other, he bought a house in a fashionable suburb of Tel Aviv and sent his children to a Jewish school.

Harari retired in 1979 as head of the Mossad in Central America and Mexico. Previously, he headed Israeli hit squad operations which killed a number of Palestinians in revenge for the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

He first met Noriega in 1973 when the general headed Panama's G-2 intelligence unit for the late Omar Torrijos, who died in a 1981 plane crash.

Harari played an integral role in developing the Panamanian Defence Forces and even suggested giving them their innocuous-sounding name, based on the Israeli defence forces.

He also trained and recruited Noriega's personal security detail, which included former Israeli soldiers and Cuban military advisers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Skydiver falls to death: A skydiver fell about 10,000 feet (3,000 metres) to her death jumping from a plane just north of Houston Gulf airport and failing to deploy either of two parachutes.

The woman, whose name was withheld pending notification of relatives, died just after the fall at 5:20 pm Monday.

Lindsay Carleton, owner of Skydive Spaceland, said the woman jumped with three other skydivers from a twin-engine turboprop airplane. Neither the jump parachute nor a reserve chute were deployed, he said. (AP)

Copter without tail rotor: McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Co. announced Tuesday the successful flight of a production helicopter without a tail rotor.

McDonnell Douglas said the craft is the world's first conventional production helicopter without a tail rotor.

Instead of relying on a tail rotor for anti-torque control, it captures air from the main rotor's downwash and circulates it through slots in the helicopter's tail boom, the company said. The resulting "lift" is similar to the airflow over the top of an airplane's wing, except that the helicopter's bow is to the side, the company said. (AP)

Yacht sinks, 14 missing: Rescuers searched the Gulf of California on Wednesday for 11 US tourists and three Mexican crew members missing after their boat sank during a diving expedition, port officials said.

An American passenger who was one of two survivors found after spending more than a day in the water said Tuesday he clung to a door that had floated from the debris.

"I was saved thanks to a door I floated on," Oram Watson told the Hermosillo, Mexico, newspaper El Imparcial. "I remember that at 6 in the morning on Monday I couldn't recognise anyone." (AP)

Bushes attend funeral: President George Bush and his wife Barbara flew to the Boston suburb of Lincoln, Tuesday to attend the funeral of Bush's brother-in-law, businessman Alexander Ellis.

As the Bushes and a small entourage arrived at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, a handful of protesters stood quietly with a large banner saying, "Will you attend the funeral in Panama?"

The trip here came as the first group of soldiers that Bush sent to Panama to oust Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega returned to the United States. The 141 troops were only a fraction of the some 14,000 troops dispatched from US bases for the Dec 20 invasion. (AP)

US civil rights lawyer dies: R. Jess Brown, a civil rights lawyer whose clients included James Meredith as well as a young blunderer who was lynched before he could be brought to trial on charges of raping a white woman, has died at 77 in Jackson, Mississippi.

Brown, who died of cancer Sunday at Hinds General Hospital, took an early stand against segregationist laws and was credited in the 1950s with filing the first civil rights suit in the state of Mississippi.

He was one of Meredith's lawyers in his successful bid to break the colour barrier and gain admission to the University of Mississippi in 1962. (AP)

Anti-bigotry project: From racial strife to the exclusionary traditions of private social clubs, close-to-home issues of bigotry are coming to Georgia's classrooms under a new education project.

The voluntary programme, to be formally unveiled Thursday, will provide teachers with materials and training to include anti-bigotry lessons in their curriculum. The programme includes general themes of racial, religious and ethnic understanding and portions dealing with matters of specific interest to Georgia.

The materials will be made available to school systems through the "A World of Difference" campaign sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and several corporate backers. (AP)

Bush sends greetings: President George Bush on Tuesday sent New Year's greetings to civil rights leader Benjamin Hooks and deplored a recent spate of racially motivated bomb attacks and threats in the southern United States.

"The recent bombings make it clear we have not totally beaten back the evils of bigotry and racial prejudice," Bush wrote in his New Year's message to the executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.

"We cannot let up in the fight against racism," Bush added. (AP)

Ex-communicated parishioner held: An ex-communicated parishioner set a fire inside a church on fire and held police and firefighters at bay for an hour before coming outside to dance on the porch in face paint, authorities say in Independence, Missouri.

The man, who had telephoned police Monday saying he was armed inside the 87-year-old wood building with hand grenades and other weapons, had said he would surrender if he were allowed to dance.

"It was something to the effect of a native American Indian dance," a police officer said. "He was jumping up and down." (AP)

Passengers praise airline: An airline passengers group praised Northwest Airlines on Tuesday for acknowledging a bomb threat last week and giving passengers the option of cancelling their reservations.

More than 100 travellers gave up bookings on Saturday's flight 51 from Paris to Detroit. The DC-10, with a capacity of 284 passengers, arrived safely in Detroit with 22 passengers on board.



Self-made US designer dies

AMERICAN fashion designer Patrick Kelly, a self-made man who charmed stars from Bette Davis to Isabella Rossellini with his outfits featuring huge multi-coloured buttons and billiard balls, has died of a brain tumour at the age of 37 after a long illness, friends said Tuesday.

He died Monday of a brain disease and brain tumour, the friends said. (Reuters wirephoto)

Plot to kill law officer

Attacker shot

CAMDEN, New Jersey, Jan 3. (AP) — A prosecutor who often accompanies detectives on drug raids said he barely escaped an assassination attempt by fleeing in his car and shooting one of his assailants in the head.

"Thank God I'm alive," Camden County prosecutor Samuel Asbell told reporters yesterday. "I guess it just wasn't my day or any time."

Asbell said two gunmen followed him as he drove from his office on New Year's Day, then opened fire. He was sprayed with glass from his windows but was not seriously injured.

The assailants pursued him in a green Toyota station wagon and fired at him in his car as he fled down a street at 5 pm Monday, Asbell said. He said he was in his office on New Year's Day to catch up on paperwork.

Friend kills patient, self

Aids slaying

LOS ANGELES, Jan 3. (AP) — A close friend of a patient dying from AIDS complications shot and killed his companion in the hospital, then committed suicide, officials said.

The murder-suicide occurred at shortly after 5 pm yesterday (0100 GMT) in the patient's room at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, said hospital spokesman Ron Wise.

"The close friend entered to visit," Wise said. "He killed (the patient), then turned the gun on himself."

Neither man was identified because relatives had not yet been notified, Wise said.

Latin America

Tubes of cocaine found: Cocaine worth \$4.2 million was stashed in two waterproof tubes attached to the outside of a Colombian ship's hull, according to police in Jacksonville, Florida who seized the drug and arrested four men in diving gear.

Police divers worked for more than 16 hours to detach the tubes from the cargo ship Sunday.

As police watched, four Colombians in diving suits appeared at a boat ramp across the St Johns River from the ship, apparently to retrieve the 265-pound (120-kilogram) cache, authorities said. The men were arrested on drug trafficking charges. (AP)

Gold prospectors to be removed: Brazil began a multi-million dollar operation on Wednesday to remove thousands of gold prospectors from the lands of the Yanomami Indians in the Amazon and combat disease which is spreading rapidly there.

Indian groups said the clean-up was the first positive step taken by the Brazilian government to save the endangered tribe.

Congress to scrutinise: The United States' aid to the government of war-torn El Salvador is expected to come under attack in Congress in the wake of a large rebel offensive and the slaying of six Jesuit priests, a US embassy spokesman said Tuesday.

"We do not expect another offensive from the FMLN because they have to regroup and rearm their troops," one army spokesman, but another military spokesman told United Press International that "the armed forces has increased security on a national level." (UPI)



A Vatican expert on Latin America, Monsignor Giacinto Bericco (R) was sent to Panama as the Vatican stepped up efforts to seek a solution to the Noriega crisis. (Reuters wirephoto)



A Cuban national, one of the men who sought refuge with Noriega at the Vatican embassy is escorted from the embassy. He was taken away in a US helicopter. (Reuters wirephoto)

Invasion of Panama

Women troops take part

WASHINGTON, Jan 3. (UPI) — The United States sent about 160 women soldiers to Panama on the combat operation "Just Cause" — the most extensive use of gun-wielding female troops in any US conflict, the army said yesterday.

Army policy does not permit women to seek out and engage the enemy in combat, but female soldiers who come under fire are allowed to defend themselves and return gunfire. And they did in Panama, officials said.

"Women have always been involved in our conflicts," army spokeswoman Paige Eversole said. "This is the operation where women have played their biggest role."

She said there were no casualties, either injuries or deaths, among the 160 women soldiers sent into Panama as part of the 12,000-strong invasion force Dec 20 or among the women soldiers already stationed there.

Many of the women "were serving with the MPs (military police) ... and were highly visible. They were receiving fire and returning fire. But they were not seeking out and engaging the enemy," Eversole said.

Army Sgt. Melissa Jackson, 22, of El Paso, Texas, assigned to Panama as a supply sergeant in October, was one of those caught in the fighting. She returned to the United States yesterday with other US troops.

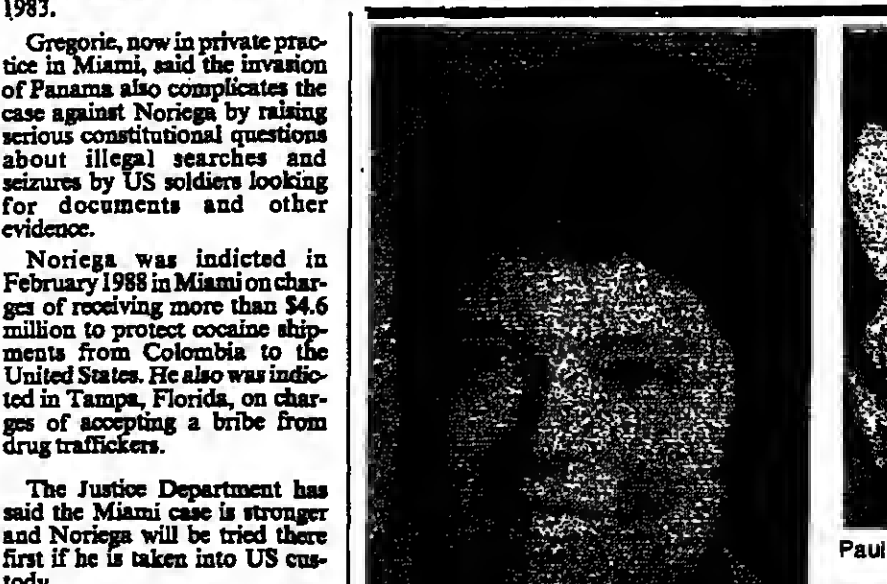
"When you're in a situation like that, there's no way they can get you out of there," Jackson told reporters in San Antonio, Texas. "You can't avoid it. So if you're there, you're there. It was scary."

Of the 160 women deployed on the Panama operation, 47 were members of the 16th Military Police Brigade from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and 43 came from the 7th Infantry Division, Fort Ord, California.

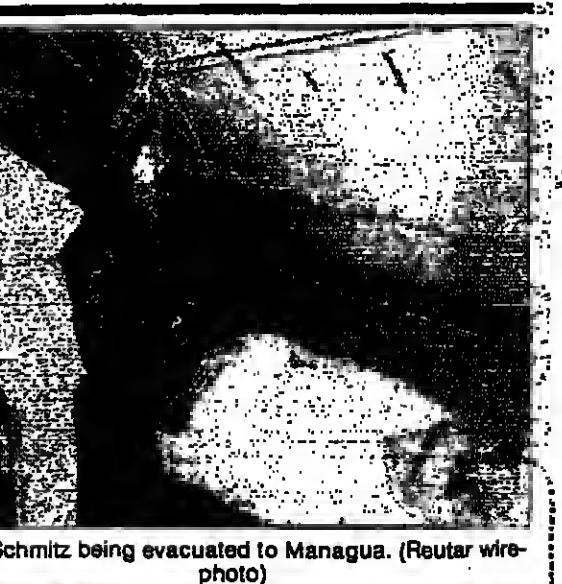
In addition, 34 women were deployed with the corps support command, 28 were from the 525th Military Intelligence Brigade, 14 were from the 35th Signal Brigade, four were from Special Operations Command, and two each were from the 18th Airborne Headquarters and the 18th Finance Corps.

"There was a conscious decision to send women. There was no conscious decision not to send women," Eversole said, adding that these women were members of military units ordered to Panama. "No one got in their way."

The four women from Special Operations sent to Panama were neither members of the elite navy Seals nor the Delta Force, because these are defined as combat groups, Eversole said.



Paul Schmitz being evacuated to Managua. (Reuters wirephoto)



Nicaraguans carrying the coffin of Maureen Courtney. (Reuters wirephoto)

2 nuns killed in Managua

Church workers ambushed

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Jan 3. (AP) — The government is blaming rebels for killing two nuns and wounding a bishop and a third nun in an ambush in Nicaragua's remote Caribbean coastal region. The bishop says their pickup truck was attacked, but he doesn't know who was responsible.

Sister Maureen Courtney, 42, of the United States and Sister Teresa Rosales of Nicaragua were killed in the attack Monday night, according to church officials.

Bishop Pablo Schmitz of the United States, who was shot in the arm, said that an explosion and heavy shooting blasted the pickup carrying the Roman Catholic Church workers to a meeting in northeastern Nicaragua.

But Schmitz said it was dark and he couldn't tell the attackers' identity or affiliation.

"I only know that a mine went off or a grenade and there was heavy shooting afterward," said Schmitz, 46. "We identified ourselves but nobody came to the pickup."

The leftist Sandinista government blamed US-backed rebels, known as Contras, but other church officials said they didn't know who was responsible.

Schmitz, the auxiliary Bishop of Bluefields, said the group was ambushed Monday afternoon in a place called Ojo de Agua, outside the town of Rosita 250 miles (400 kms) northeast of Managua in the northeastern province of Zelaya.

An isolated area with few roads, northeastern Nicaragua is a stronghold of the Miskito Indians and an autonomous part of the Contra resistance. Bluefields, Nicaragua's main Caribbean Port, is about 100 miles (160 kms) south of Puerto Cabezas.

Church officials said the workers were driving through the remote region in a white pickup with yellow crosses painted on the sides.

Schmitz said the group had gone from Puerto Cabezas to the town of Sina, but were ambushed as they drove on to Rosita for a meeting.

Traveling in a convoy with them was Bishop Salvador Schiaffino, who stayed behind in Sina, he said.

Asked if the attackers were rebels, Schmitz said he didn't know because "it was very dark outside."

Regional Deputy Commander Julio Rugama contended that the church workers were ambushed by about 60 rebels who operate in the region.

Cuba, Romania get seats in Security Council: character won't change

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 3. (AP) — Five countries, including Romania and Cuba, joined the UN Security Council yesterday for two-year terms.

Ivory Coast, Democratic Yemen and Zaire also became members in a regular change of membership that UN and US officials said would not greatly change the character of the body.

"We respect our Warsaw Treaty obligations, but we will energetically pursue consensus solutions sought by the international community on major regional conflicts," said a senior Romanian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We want to co-operate."

"We aim to give Romania more international credibility and it will have more believability as it follows the democratic process," the diplomat told the Associated Press in an interview. In the past, he said, such interviews were rare, but Romania now recognises the "importance of openly expressing its views and answering questions."

The 15-member Security Council is the most powerful UN body and can adopt legally binding resolutions. Its five permanent members — the United States, Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union — have veto power.

The other non-permanent members of the council are Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland and Malaysia.

All 10 non-permanent members of the council serve for two-year terms and are selected on a rotating basis to represent various regions.

Romania replaces Yugoslavia as an Eastern European member, Cuba replaces Brazil, Ivory Coast replaces Algeria, Yemen replaces Nepal and Zaire replaces Senegal.

UN diplomats said they expected Romania's position on the Security Council to be forward-looking. Romania was rocked by a popular uprising in December that toppled the government.

مكذاه الأهل

US will pull out some troops from S. Korea

Misconduct by disgraced Chun is a 'closed chapter'

SEOUL, Jan 3, (AP) — The United States and South Korea are near an agreement to withdraw 5,000-6,000 US soldiers from South Korea this year to meet US congressional demands and defence budget cuts, the Yonhap news agency reported today.

The national news service quoted unidentified Korean government sources as saying the two governments discussed restructuring the US troop presence in South Korea, including reductions in its size, in connection with a bill sponsored by US Senators Sam Nunn and John Warner.

The US 8th Army headquarters in Seoul said it would have no comment on the report.

Yonhap said relocating the Marines to South Korea was linked to the long-range idea of maintaining stability in East Asia.

One Korean official was quoted as saying the two countries shared the view that US troops were needed at the present level until there is improvement in relations between North and South Korea.

Washington repeatedly has stated that US troops will not be withdrawn as long as South Korean officials feel they are needed for defence of the country.

In another report, the daily newspaper Dong-A Ilbo reported today that for the first time this year the United States and South Korea were expected to scale back the annual "Team Spirit" military exercises to create a better atmosphere for North-South talks.

President Roh Tae-Woo of South Korea, declaring "the case closed," appealed to the nation today to stop bickering over charges of alleged misconduct by disgraced former president Chun Doo-Hwan.

Roh issued a statement declaring that disputes over the former president's alleged wrongdoings during his seven-year rule had been resolved by Chun's daylong testimony in Parliament on Sunday.

"I know that some people are not satisfied with his testimony... but if there is more to be clarified, it should be left to history," Roh said on nationwide radio and television.

He said "discussion" of past issues is unproductive and must not be allowed to "continue to split Korean society."

"I declare that I, as President responsible for all state affairs, will resolutely close the case regardless of who tries to make an issue of it," he said.

Roh said Chun's testimony fulfilled a "grand compromise" reached between him and opposition leaders on Dec 15. As part of the compromise, two former generals who had served under Chun — Chung Ho-Yong and Lee Hui-Sung — resigned from politics.

Although the head of the biggest opposition party wanted to bring charges brought against Chun, all other major political parties contacted by the Associated Press indicated they would not make an issue of Chun's testimony.

About 43,000 American troops, including the 2nd US Infantry Division, are stationed in South Korea under a mutual defence pact. US troops fought on the size of the South after communist North Korea invaded to start the 1950-53 Korean war.

The congressional bill sponsored by Nunn and Warner requires the US administration to report by April 1 measures to reorganise American forces in East Asia, including South Korea.

Quoting another ranking government source, Yonhap also said that the two governments were studying the possibility of relocating US marines now stationed in Okinawa to South Korea.

Beijing raps US on pupils

BEIJING, Jan 3, (Reuters) — China's education chief warned in a tough policy speech published today that Beijing might retaliate for US decisions to let Chinese students fearing persecution remain in the United States.

Li Tieying, head of the state education commission, also called for stricter political tests for Chinese students sent abroad and said some colleges would have to be merged or even closed.

His speech, carried on the front page of the People's Daily, was the latest in a string of headline education policies laid down since the government smashed student-led demonstrations for democracy in June.

"The United States has violated a Sino-US agreement on educational exchanges, and grossly interfered in our internal affairs," Li told members of China's parliament late last month and published for the first time today.

"We will be forced to take necessary action (against the US policy) at the appropriate time," he said. He did not say specifically what steps might be taken but he hinted at tighter controls on determining which students were allowed to study abroad.

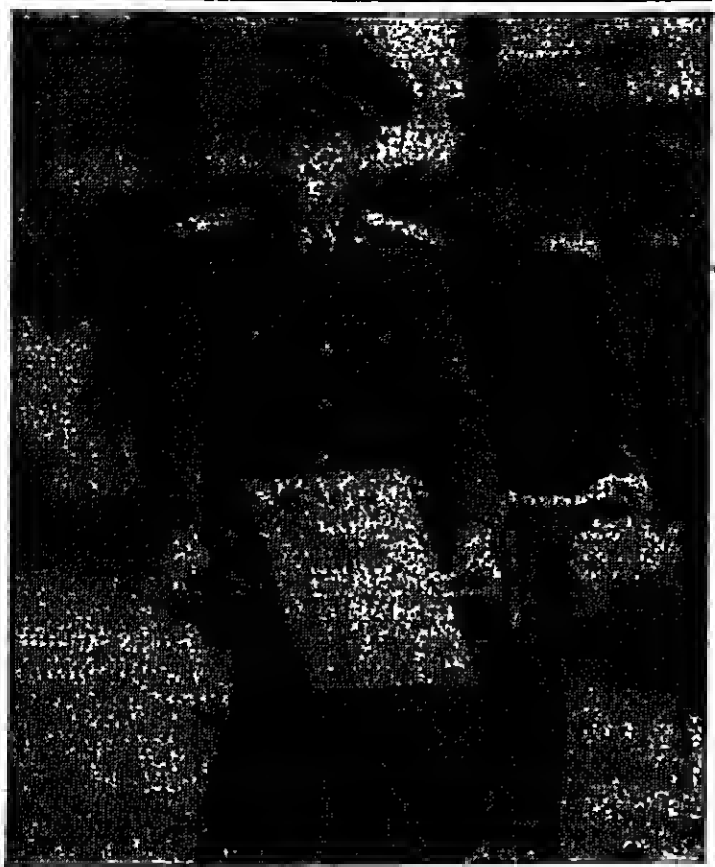
In November President George Bush vetoed a bill introduced by Congress that would have allowed all Chinese students in the United States to remain there even if their visas expired.

Legislators came up with the bill in reaction to the bloody army crackdown in Beijing.

Despite his veto, Bush promised to grant extensions to students able to show they feared persecution on return to China. Congressional leaders were never the less and said they would override the veto when they returned from recess this month.

A review board has upheld a ban on a Taiwanese documentary film about the pro-democracy movement in Beijing, fearing it might upset communist China, the board chairman said Wednesday.

The government television and entertainment licensing authority voted last month to ban a 16-minute segment from the documentary "Mainland China 1989," which was to be shown twice as part of a film programme at the Hong Kong Arts Centre.



Cycling servicemen

Members of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) cycle in Guanzhou. One of them carries a toy Uzi machine-gun in the front basket of his cycle. (Reuters wirephoto)

Negotiations continuing

China denies deal on Fang

BEIJING, Jan 3, (UPI) — China dismissed today as "speculation" reports of a deal to free the country's leading dissident from refuge in the US embassy but Western diplomats and Chinese sources said the negotiations were continuing.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry statement came after a Hong Kong magazine reported the dissident, astrophysicist Fang Lizhi, and his wife, Li Shuxian, would be allowed to leave for Australia under an agreement negotiated with the United States.

An Australian government spokesman in Canberra denied the report. But the Chinese statement fell short of a flat denial and appeared to leave the door open for a bargain.

The only way out for Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian is to plead guilty immediately and mend their ways so as not to alienate themselves from the people," the Foreign Ministry said.

Speculation about the couple's release has intensified since US President George Bush's controversial initiative last month to improve relations with Beijing. The administration is known to want concessions from China to stave off sharp criticism in Congress.

Fang and Li have lived in the US embassy since taking refuge there last June 5, two days after the Chinese Army fired on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing and brutally suppressed the massive demonstrations that swept the nation last spring.

A week later, Chinese authorities issued arrest warrants for Fang and Li, charging they instigated what the government has branded a "counter-revolutionary rebellion." If captured, the couple face lengthy prison terms.

"The recent rumours about the question of Fang Lizhi floating around abroad and overseas are speculation pure and simple," the Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said, reiterating that the embassy refuge was "interference in China's internal affairs."

Western diplomats and Chinese sources, although unaware of the details of the talks, said negotiations had been under way for some time and appeared to be nearing a conclusion.

The US embassy has declined to comment on Fang. Senior US officials in Beijing privately have been attempting to play down reports from Washington quoting administration officials as saying a deal had been concluded.

The Chinese statement appeared to leave room for some form of bargain, saying "this problem can only be solved according to the laws of China" and the United States was "obligated to work for its settlement."

Western analysts believe the Fang issue has become a dispute between moderate Chinese leaders seeking improved relations with Washington and hardliners arguing that allowing the couple's release would show a lack of resolve.

Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin told visiting Hong Kong newspaper executives last month that Fang would have to show "repentance," suggesting the leadership was seeking a face-saving device as a catalyst for releasing the couple.

The Bush administration also faces a time problem, as the US Congress resumes session Jan 23 amid simmering outrage over last month's surprise trip to Beijing by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft in a bid to improve relations. Critics have derided the move as "kowtowing."

US efforts to pry ousted Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega from the Vatican embassy in Panama City may be directly complicating the fate of Fang.

10 Indonesians saved

Airliner dives

JAKARTA, Jan 3, (UPI) — Ten of 16 people aboard an Indonesian airliner that made an emergency landing in the Java Sea have been rescued from rough waters, searchers and company officials said today.

"We have received a report from rescue teams in the area that they have picked up eight survivors," a company official told United Press International.

Later, rescue officials said they received a report that a fishing vessel rescued a mother and her child. Rescue officials said one of the survivors was the plane's co-pilot, who suffered only minor injuries in the ditching at sea. Few details of the sea landing were available.

The twin-engine Casa C-212 of Indonesia's Pelita Air Service, carrying 13 passengers and a crew of three, made an emergency landing yesterday near Pabelokan Island in the Thousand Islands chain, about 60 miles (90 km) northwest of Jakarta.

The Casa plane was en route from Palembang in central Sumatra to Jakarta on an inspection flight, officials said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asia

Heat wave sweeps Australia: Heat wave conditions Wednesday swept south and eastern Australia, threatening sunbathers with skin cancer and melting rubberised court surfaces at a tennis tournament in Brisbane.

Weather bureau officials said the mercury shot up to at least 109 degrees Fahrenheit (43C) in some areas. In Sydney, hundreds of people were treated for heat exhaustion and doctors warned sunbathers seeking relief at the beaches they risked skin cancer with four hours of exposure in the fierce sun and heat.

Dr Greg Lahood of Sydney's Prince Alfred Hospital said a mere 10 minutes in the sun between 10 am and 2 pm was enough to cause serious sunburn.

69 people executed in 1989: Taiwan executed a record 69 people in 1989, more than triple the number shot the previous year, a Justice Ministry spokesman said on Wednesday.

Taiwan law allows the death penalty for murder, rape, kidnapping, gang robbery and other serious crimes. Executions are often carried out with a shot through the heart while the criminal lies face down in a sandpit.

The spokesman said in a telephone interview 22 people were executed in 1988, and 94 people between 1978 and 1988.

The country of 20 million people has been plagued by a crime wave, with almost daily reports of robberies, kidnappings, shoot-outs and murders.

Police smash gambling den: Taiwan police have uncovered a gambling den of deaf-mutes whose most important tool was a fax machine.

Police in the central city of Hsinchu said on Wednesday they had recently smashed the ring, made up of scores of deaf-mutes from all over the island. The club's organiser, also a deaf-mute, used a facsimile machine to communicate the details of each gambling session, where speculators would wager hefty stakes on the traditional Chinese game of Mahjong.

Burma lifts martial law: Burma's military rulers have lifted a martial law order in 10 townships in northwestern Burma, the official Rangoon Radio reported.

"Since the law and order security conditions have improved in the jurisdiction of the northwest military command, martial law is hereby revoked," the radio said Tuesday, quoting from a proclamation signed by the military intelligence chief, Brig. Gen. Khin Nyunt.

A text of the broadcast was seen Wednesday in Bangkok.

\$51m spent on tear-gas: South Korean riot police have used \$51 million worth of tear gas in the past 10 years to put down various protests, according to police figures published Wednesday.

The number of tear-gas shells fired by police reached 1.87 million — an average of 511 a day — in the same period. Police here are armed with three kinds of tear gas — canisters, grenades and shells.

Last year, police introduced armoured vans carrying tear-gas cannons from Israel in an effort to reduce injuries.

Defence committee proposed: The Japanese Socialist party Saturday proposed to form a Parliament committee on disarmament to reconsider Japan's defensive policies following the ease of tension between East and West.

The leading opposition party in a statement further said that the Soviet Union could not be considered a big threat to Japan at present.

Africa

Minister dismissed: President Samuel K. Doe has fired his Internal Affairs minister and a senior local official for mishandling reports of an impending rebel invasion.

A government statement said Tuesday that Col. Edward Sackor and Stephen Daniels, superintendent of Nimba county, had misled the administration about a plot to try to destabilize Doe's administration.

The statement said Sackor and Daniels recommended in October the dismissal and detention of a local chief, Jerry Gonyon, after he reported unusual activities in Nimba, where the rebels first struck. (AP)

Plan targets private sector: Nigeria, turning to the private sector for key help, launched a three-year action plan on Tuesday aimed at feeding its 100 million people and providing a new focus on social programmes.

"This plan marks the dawn of a new decade of hope to all Nigerians," said Budget and Planning Minister Abaji Abubakar Alhaji, giving details of the 1990-92 plan and the 1990 budget unveiled by President Ibrahim Babangida on Monday. (Reuters)

S. African black schools: A dismal performance by black pupils on high school exams has jolted black communities into a search for remedies, and prompted one newspaper to call for foreign aid to ensure that blacks will be ready to govern after apartheid is abolished.

Anti-apartheid activists and black civic leaders have complained for years about problems in segregated black schools, ranging from underfunding to overcrowding to classroom violence. (AP)

Japan may send official to Phnom Penh to assess situation

BANGKOK, Thailand, Jan 3, (AP) — Japan is considering sending a government official to Cambodia for the first time since Vietnam invaded the country in late 1978, a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

"The Japanese government is seriously considering the possibility of dispatching a Foreign Ministry official to Phnom Penh to get first-hand information on the situation of Cambodia," the spokesman, Seichi Kondo, told a news conference.

He was reporting on a meeting earlier in the day between Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nak-

ayama, who arrived in Bangkok yesterday for an official visit.

Kondo said Japan wanted the trip made "as soon as possible," but no date has been decided. Another Japanese official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it could be next month and most likely would be made by Masaharu Kohno, a middle-ranking Southeast Asia specialist at the ministry.

It would be the first such visit since Vietnam invaded and installed other communist government to replace the Khmer Rouge government, which had killed hundreds of thousands of people. Kondo said the visit would be informal and

"does not mean that Japan recognises the... regime as the legitimate government."

A senior Australian envoy Michael Costello will meet the head of the Khmer Rouge on Thursday or Friday to try to persuade him to accept Canberra's plan to place Cambodia under temporary United Nations administration, diplomats said.

They said Costello, a deputy secretary in the department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, will meet secretly in Bangkok with Khieu Samphan, who leads the strongest of the three Cambodian resistance groups.

HUSSAIN F. AL-OMAR EST.

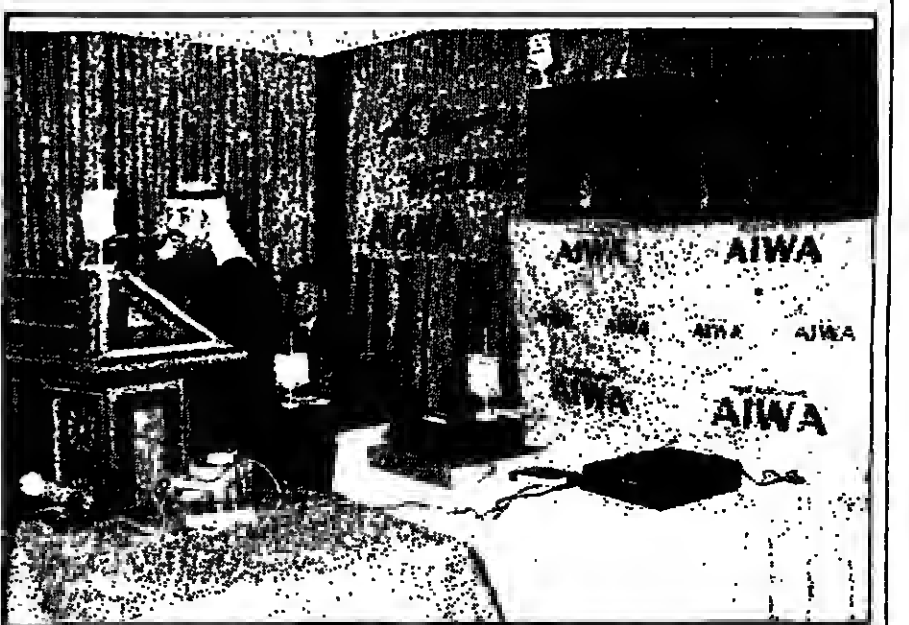
General Agents for Aiwa Electronics Co., Japan

organised a seminar recently at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel

It was well attended by local electronic dealers and the Aiwa staff especially arrived from Japan for this seminar. Several latest Aiwa Products including VCR, VCP, Tele-video, Walkman, Car Stereos, Hi-Fi System, Cassette Decks, etc. were displayed in the function. Mr Ali H.F. Al-Omar, General Manager, opening the seminar introduced latest models which are unique in the market considering the quality and prices.

While Mr Kawasaki, Aiwa Overseas Marketing Manager, spoke on high performance of Aiwa products and Mr M. Tabata, Chief Engineer and Mr Y. Taniwaki, M.E. Manager, have demonstrated the new features of VCRs and VCPs performance combined with auto voltage power supply and digital auto tracking achievement, with advanced technology.

The function was concluded with dinner and vote of thanks was presented by Mr Ali Al Omar.



Mr Ali Al Omar & Mr Kawasaki can be seen in the above picture.



Mr Tabata, Aiwa Chief Engineer



Mr Tabata explaining the new features of Aiwa VCRs & VCPs



Mr Hussein Al Omar, chairman of Al Omar Est.

VACANCY

Library Assistant

The British Council has an immediate vacancy for a part-time library assistant (24 hours per week). Fluent English essential. Library experience and some knowledge of Arabic preferred.

Application forms to be returned by 10 January 90 and more details from the British Council, 2 Al Arabi Street, Mansouriah.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

G.C.E. June 1990 Examinations

Tel: 2515512/533204/533227

Candidates wishing to sit the above examination in Kuwait should apply to the British Council, behind Al-Arabi Stadium, Mansouriyah, Block 2, before 10th January 1990 at the latest. No late entries can be accepted after the closing date.

INTERNATIONAL

Crisis talks open in Sofia

SOFIA, Jan 3, (Agencies): Communist Party leaders today opened talks with opposition groups that could lead to a transitional government and an end to the communists' guaranteed supremacy in Bulgaria.

Delegations from the ruling communists, the Bulgarian Agrarian Party and a delegation of the Union of Democratic Forces met in the National Assembly (Parliament) the official BTA news agency said.

The talks began after the parties consulted with other public organisations and workers' unions, the agency said. It gave no other details.

The talks came after the independent trade union, Podkrepa, one of the groups in the UDF, last week threatened a general strike if the communists did not agree to share power.

Pressure
The strike, which would have been the first such work stoppage in Bulgaria since World War II, was called off after the communists agreed to the round-table talks.

But pressure for change continued, with demonstrations by several thousand students and others supporting opposition demands for more democracy and Bulgarian Turks and other Muslim demanding an end to assimilation and discrimination.

Communist leader and President Peter Mladenov, who replaced hard-line party chief Todor Zhivkov Nov 10, has pledged widespread reforms and free elections by May.

Opposition groups allowed to operate since Zhivkov's ouster have one demand in common — an end to the communists' monopoly on power.

A special parliamentary session has been moved up to Jan 15 to discuss scrapping article 1 of the constitution that guarantees the party a "leading role" in society.

But reform is complicated by ethnic tensions. The communists' decision last week to return minority rights to Bulgaria's ethnic Turkish population sparked mass demonstrations in favour and against the decision.

Separated
In Kurdzhali, some 350 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of Sofia, a committee for the defence of national interests was formed last week by communists and non-communists, to protest the decision.

In a declaration to be handed to Parliament, the committee charged that the leadership "had once again taken categorical and irreversible decisions (and) forced its dictates on the popular opinion."

After a one-day meeting of the Communist Party central committee on Friday, Andrei Lukianov, the party's second in command, advocated a separation of party and state functions and "a complete and final de-Stalinisation of the party."

He promised the communists would step down if they lost the elections.

Fate
Two months after the fall of dictator Todor Zhivkov, the Communist Party he led has not yet decided his fate.

But Lukianov said Zhivkov's future would be decided by "law ... not passion," a reference to the summary execution of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Lukianov, in an interview with Reuters yesterday, also said the party had an important future role to play and the loss of its guaranteed monopoly on power did not mean the communists were ready to "self-destruct."

"The Bulgarian Communist Party has preserved not all but a great part of its heritage and its ability for politics," Lukianov said.

"How big a role and what role exactly is perhaps too presumptuous to say now but I am quite sure that it will preserve an important role in Bulgarian political life."

Lukianov, a Soviet-educated economist, was one of a new generation of reform-minded technocrats elevated to full political membership after the expulsion of Zhivkov on Nov 10 and a purge of other hardline conservatives.

Laws
Lukianov, who heads a commission of inquiry into past malpractices in "social and economic life" — a euphemism for corruption — indicated there were no immediate plans to bring Zhivkov to trial.

Referring to neighbouring Romania, where Ceausescu was executed on Dec 25 after a summary trial, he said Bulgaria would find its own way of dealing with the problem of a "personal dictatorship."

5 Lisbon ministers sacked

Heavy losses in local elections

LISBON, Jan 3, (AP): Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva sacked five ministers in his center-right government today, including the architect of the government's programme to liberalise the economy, a spokesman said.

The move comes two weeks after the governing Social Democratic Party sustained heavy losses in local elections.

The government spokesman said among ministers fired were controversial Finance Minister Miguel Cadilhe, Defence Minister Eurico de Melo and Health Minister Leonor Beza.

Also out of the cabinet are Agriculture Minister Alvaro Baretto, and Jose Silveira

Godinho, the minister of internal administration.

All five were leading figures in the government formed after the Social Democrats won 1987 elections. Yesterday's reshuffle was the first major change to a team built to reduce state economic control and modernise the country to the levels of its partners in the European Economic Committee, which Portugal joined in 1986 as the poorest member.

Press reports said De Melo resigned his positions as defence minister and deputy prime minister in protest after Cavaco Silva decided to replace the four other ministers following the party's defeat at the hands of the

Socialist Party in nation-wide municipal elections Dec 17.

In a letter to Cavaco Silva quoted by the national Lusa news agency, De Melo said his decision followed "a weakening of confidence and political support for his positions."

Cavaco Silva presented five new ministers to President Mario Soares. They include Miguel Beza, brother of the outgoing health minister, who is slated to be the next finance minister.

Miguel Beza, a director of the Bank of Portugal, supports government plans to privatise state-owned companies and reduce government control of the economy.



Havel puts his hand through the Berlin Wall during his first trip abroad since becoming President. (Reuter wirephoto)

Concrete issues discussed

Havel visits Germanys

MUNICH, Jan 3, (UPI): Czechoslovakia reform President Václav Havel met the leaders of both Germanys during brief visits to East Berlin and Munich, and said he would like to someday say "Ich bin ein Berliner" as President Kennedy did more than 26 years ago.

After talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Munich, Havel said yesterday he decided to visit both Germanys the same day to show his approval of the recent rapprochement between the two states.

He said the visits were originally meant to have only a "symbolic character" but that they turned out to be "working visits."

"We managed to discuss many concrete issues" he said. During his visit to East Berlin, Havel drove past the Berlin Wall with his host, head of state Manfred Gerlach, who told him the wall would soon be pulled down.

Havel told journalists he would like to say "Ich bin ein Berliner" — "I am a Berliner" — as did President Kennedy during his visit to Berlin in June 1963, two years after the wall was built.

"I would like to take the liberty to repeat this sentence at

a new time and in a new context," Havel said during his brief visit before flying on to West Germany.

Havel said all walls and barriers in Europe must fall. In response to a question, Havel said he was opposed to the death penalty, but said last week's execution of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife may have saved many lives.

After talks with Gerlach and Prime Minister Hans Modrow, Havel praised recent developments in East Germany, which has moved away from the Stalinist policies it adhered to since its founding 40 years ago.

"All of us Europeans must thank the GDR (East Germany) for having started pulling down one of the worst walls," said Havel, a playwright and essayist, who gained prominence during the spring 1988 uprising in Prague that was crushed by Warsaw Pact tanks.

"This decade must become the decade of Europeans," said Kohl after meeting with Havel in Munich.

The Czechoslovak leader also met with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, President Richard von Weizsaecker and opposition leader Hans-Jochen Vogel.

Modrow moves to appease Forum

EAST BERLIN, Jan 3, (Agencies): The interim government of communist Premier Hans Modrow promised today to keep political opponents better informed about national affairs and to consult pro-democracy forces before making important decisions.

Modrow's effort to appease disgruntled leaders of the New Forum reform movement prevented the collapse of talks between the government and opposition groups on guiding the country through the uncertain period before elections scheduled for May 6.

In what would be the first free balloting in East Germany's 40-year history, voters would select a 500-member Parliament that would choose a new government.

Because opposition forces view Modrow's communist-dominated cabinet as transitional, they want its powers and limited and that decision affecting important areas of national policy should take into consideration the views of grassroots reform movements.

Modrow sent Economics Minister Christa Luft to today's session of the talks to assure the nearly 20 political parties and citizens' movements they would be consulted regularly through May 6, in an apparent good-faith gesture.

Luft gave a detailed account of the national economy in light of East Germany's \$20.6-billion foreign debt.

West German economic experts say East Germany's overall economic profile is much better than that of Poland or Hungary — two other Eastern European nations struggling to carry out democratic and economic reforms.

Modrow yesterday invited representatives at the talks to form an advisory committee to work with his government. The talks bring together leaders of the Communist Party and more than a dozen other political parties and citizens' groups to prepare draft legislation, constitutional reforms and other proposed changes.

New Forum leaders had threatened to withdraw from the talks, a move Modrow strongly opposed.

"If we do not succeed in building a climate of mutual trust, we will not have the proper climate for the May 6 elections, either," the official ADN news agency quoted him as saying.

The date for elections was determined at the first round of talks, in December.

Reinhold Schacht of the East Berlin chapter of New Forum, which claims 200,000 members nationwide, told a news conference late yesterday that Modrow's cabinet had failed to keep reform activists informed about ecological, political and financial matters. The group has specifically complained about East German officials' agreeing to work with West German firms to improve nuclear power plant operations and output.

A leading East German communist warned today of new turmoil after planned free elections in May if splintered opposition groups failed to bury conflicts.

"Time is pressing... you can see the new groups are not yet ready," Wolfgang Berghofer, widely tipped as a future leader of the reformed Communist Party, told Reuters.

"If new party laws don't channel them, then the political scenery will be so multi-layered, the new parliament will be incapable of working. May 6 is not the end of the process."

11-member team to have final say

Romanians free to travel

BUCHAREST, Jan 3, (Agencies): Romania's interim leadership today named an 11-member executive committee that apparently has the final say in running the country.

The National Salvation Front, which took over last month when a popular revolt toppled longtime communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, also named new government ministries and groups to oversee specific industries and functions.

The Front has said free elections would be held in April. One of the embryonic political parties forming after years of repressive rule said today that such early elections could give the Front an advantage.

A soldier was seriously wounded overnight by sniper fire, indicating that pockets of resistance remain against the forces that overthrew Ceausescu.

Hundreds of agents from Ceausescu's disbanded security police are believed armed and at large.



Women street cleaners shovel snow from the road outside the Foreign Ministry in Bucharest which is the only place in the city which maintains a presence of tanks. (Reuter wirephoto)

Arabs forced to come closer

New world order

TUNIS, Jan 3, (Reuters): Changes in Eastern Europe are helping to push Arab states closer together in a defensive reaction to a new world order unlikely to work in their favour, Arab and East bloc officials say.

The changes of the last few months have only accelerated a trend which began several years ago when the Soviet Union took a fresh look at its role in the Middle East and concluded it did not have the economic muscle to sustain it.

Many Arabs see the United States as a strategic ally of Israel in Middle East and, by extension, anti-Arab.

The officials say Washington has been taking advantage of Soviet retrenchment, upsetting the traditional balance of interests in the region, the officials say. "Unfortunately the United States is still using developments in Eastern Europe to strengthen its previous policy," Adnan Omran, Arab League assistant secretary general, told Reuters.

One PLO official said the United States remained a major player in the region while the Soviet Union was no longer there.

"On the contrary if (the US) has strengthened its involvement... US hostility to the Palestinian cause has increased considerably," he added.

"This has encouraged the Arab states to move towards rapprochements. Inter-Arab relations are better than they have been for some time," said the PLO who specialises in relations with Eastern Europe.

"Recent developments (in superpower relations) show that the Arab states are in a better position to understand the importance of unity... they can see that unity alone enables them to defend their own interests," added Omran.

"If (the Soviet Union) does not care anymore, it looks after itself. It has left us, all these small peoples... to face their fate. These small people will unite and form an international platform," Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi said in October.

The most dramatic rapprochement in the Middle East was that between Egypt and Syria last month. The two countries, which fought Israel together in 1967 and 1973, had been at odds for more than a decade over Egypt's separate peace with Israel.

Arab officials say they expect other rapprochements to follow in quick succession. The main surviving rows are those between Syria and the PLO and between Syria and Iraq.

The PLO says it hopes to send a delegation led by its foreign affairs chief Farouk Kaddoumi on a reconciliation trip to Damascus in the near future, possibly this month.

In addition to fears of an unfettered United States in alliance with Israel, the latest changes in Eastern Europe have added concern that the new governments will end their diplomatic support for the Arabs in their conflict with Israel.

Hungary has already restored diplomatic relations with Israel and other states likely to follow suit.

"Peoples freed from the dictatorship of one-party rule cannot but take the opposite tack to the choices made by the despised regimes which have collapsed. It was logical that the 'pro-Arab option' of these regimes should be questioned," said Hamadi Essid, the Arab League representative in Paris.

Arab sensitivities on this score were especially aroused when the East European media reported rumours of Libyan, Syrian and Palestinian fighting in Romania alongside secret police loyal to executed president Nicolae Ceausescu.

Arab officials said Israel's sympathisers had deliberately spread the rumours to poison relations between the Arabs and Romania's new rulers.

The PLO official said the organisation regretted the growing contacts between Israel and Eastern Europe but did not think the East Europeans would abandon support for a Palestinian state.

"The PLO regrets anything that eases the position of Israel. It enables Israel to remain intransigent," he said.

The sudden increase in Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union is another by-product of liberalisation which could be damaging to Arab and especially Palestinian interests.

Israelis are expected to receive up to 300,000 Soviet Jews over the next three years and many of these may be settled among Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

"We don't feel it will help peace in the region. We hope the Soviet Union will reconsider and postpone it until there is a just peace in the Middle East," said Adnan Omran.

But PLO and East bloc officials said they doubted the exodus would reach such proportions. "As personal freedoms spread in the Soviet Union, emigration will fall," said a PLO official.

"The Soviet Union has little sympathy to offer the Arabs in their dilemma. The Arabs are always telling Moscow their problems are the most important in the world. Unfortunately that's not the way Moscow sees it," said an East bloc diplomat.

In general, though, order appeared to be returning in the wake of the two-week revolution that ended Ceausescu's 24-year authoritarian rule. Foreign envoys began arriving in Bucharest to meet with members of the interim leadership.

Rompres, Romania's official news agency, said the Front named interim president Ion Iliescu as chief of the new executive committee.

Romania also has a cabinet, led by Premier Petre Roman, but the ultimate authority is the Front. Roman was excluded from the 11-member executive committee, according to Rompres.

It said Dumitru Mazilu was named first deputy of the executive committee. Mazilu had criticised Ceausescu in a report smuggled out of Romania last fall and given to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, where Mazilu worked until being placed under house arrest by Ceausescu in 1987.

Set up within the executive committee were sub-groups with responsibility for human rights and constitutional matters, foreign policy, economy and reconstruction, national minorities and other areas.

Roman's cabinet also was expanded, Rompres reported, with ministers for geology, foreign trade, mines, post and communications, and a president of the Foreign Trade Bank.

Romania's army chief of staff said today the revolution that pitted Ceausescu's well-armed security police against army forces and civilians left "a high number of dead all over the country."

Col. Gen Vasile Ionel also repeated charges that 60,000 people died under Ceausescu's rule. "Just how many died in the revolution will be found out later on," he said.

Ionel said 196 army officers and non-commissioned officers died in the fighting and more than 450 were injured. He did not give a figure for non-officers, who would have borne the brunt of the battle.

Death estimates in the revolt ranged from hundreds to tens of thousands. The Red Cross said yesterday that initial estimates, which were very high, had been inflated.

The soldier shot overnight was admitted to Bucharest emergency hospital with a bullet wound in the temple. Doctors described his condition as "very serious."

Laurent Fabius, the French national assembly president and former French prime minister, today promised his country's "immediate support and aid to support Romanian reconstruction."

He spoke to reporters after meeting with Iliescu and Roman.

The National Salvation Front announced today it had lifted a ban on foreign borrowing imposed by Ceausescu.

Ceausescu bled Romania dry in the past eight years and forced his people to the edge of starvation to pay off some \$20 billion in debts, interest and service charges by exporting the country's food output.

Although the Front did not specifically say so, the scrapping of the ban appeared to foreshadow a resumption of foreign borrowing to help reconstruct the shattered economy.

In an announcement reported by the Rompres agency, the Front said it had also abrogated 20 other laws deemed against the national interest.

Immediately after taking power in the revolution that toppled Ceausescu, the Front halted the export of food and channelled into the country's stores goods which had been unused for years.

Western diplomats said Romania is expected to rely heavily on Western technology and know-how for economic reconstruction.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet Jews emigration: More than 71,000 Jews left the Soviet Union in 1989, the highest annual figure since the National Conference on Soviet Jewry began keeping track of emigration in 1968, the organisation said Tuesday.

Of the 71,196 Jews who left the Soviet Union last year, 12,056 went to Israel, according to the Soviet Jewry Research Bureau of the NCJS.

Nearly all the others were bound for the United States.

Some 10,000 to 20,000 remain in Italy awaiting permission to come here. Most of the rest have already arrived; a small percentage went to other Western European countries, Canada or Australia, said Mark Levin, associate executive director of the NCJS in Washington. (AP)

Levin for large troops cut: Senator Carl Levin, Democrat of Michigan, said Tuesday the United States should consider a cut of 200,000 troops from Western Europe because the threat of attack from the Warsaw Pact "is simply not there."

Levin, a member of the Senate Armed Services committee, said the democratic reforms that are sweeping across Eastern Europe and throwing out communist governments are discarding as well the plausible idea of a Warsaw Pact attack on NATO.

"The Warsaw Pact threat is simply not there the way it was," Levin told a news conference. "The military threat has been significantly reduced." (UPI)

Military hardware arrives: US soldiers on Tuesday began unloading about 1,000 pieces of military hardware sent by ship from the United States for use in upcoming exercises in West Germany.

US Gen John Galvin, the top military commander in Europe for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, reiterated that the Allies still needed to maintain a strong defence despite easing East-West tensions.

"What's happening in Eastern Europe is as of now still not entirely predictable," he said. (AP)

Conservatives advise follow-thinkers: Ruling Conservative party legislators said Tuesday they are helping like-minded people in Eastern Europe to organise similar parties which have not been known there for more than 40 years.

"I am flattered at the support for Conservative ideas in Eastern Europe," said Henry Bellingham, chairman of the conservative council on Eastern Europe.

"We see enormous opportunities for the emergence of conservatism in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia," he said in a recent interview. (AP)

Surveillance flights: A Canadian air force plane will make surveillance flights over Hungary this week as part of a new East-West initiative, Hungarian radio said on Wednesday.

The radio said the flights between Thursday and Sunday would be part of preparations for talks on an "open skies" treaty under which North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and Warsaw Pact states could



Romanians honoured

A tank driver passes by a shrine where people light candles in memory of victims killed during the downfall of the Ceausescu government in central Bucharest, Jan 1. (Reuter wirephoto)

make regular surveillance overflights.

"A C-130 type military cargo plane of the Canadian Air Force will perform test flights in Hungarian airspace between Jan 4 and 7," the radio said, quoting a Foreign Ministry statement. (Reuters)

Marx grave to be polished up: The West German government, concerned about the fading looks of the Father of Communism, will provide funds to polish up the grave of Karl Marx at London's Highgate cemetery, parliamentary vice-president Annemarie Renger said Wednesday.

She said West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had arranged for the Foreign Ministry to oversee and finance the renovation of the last resting place of the German-born philosopher who died in the British capital in 1883.

Marx's grave is set in a section of the huge, rambling Victorian cemetery in the fashionable north London suburb of Highgate, that has largely been taken over by bushes and undergrowth. (UPI)

Brzezinski urges Poles, Czechoslovaks to form federation

WARSAW, Jan 3, (UPI): Former US national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski said yesterday Poland and Czechoslovakia should form a federation to protect themselves from the Soviet Union on one side and a reunited Germany on the other.

"The geopolitical and economic situation indicates there should be co-operation between Slovaks, Czechs and Poles," Brzezinski, who was born in Warsaw, said in Polish on a live radio call-in programme originating in Washington, DC.

"A stand should be taken on the formation of a federation of Czechoslovakia and Poland," he continued.

"The new Czechoslovak authorities have a friendly stand on Solidarity and under the new situation the vacuum should be filled between Germany and Russia."

The Polish-language programme originated in Voice of America studios in Washington and included questions from Polish reporters in the studios of Polish radio in Warsaw.

A federation between the two countries was proposed and discarded between World War I and World War II, but interest in the idea has been revived in recent months as political changes and reforms have swept across Eastern Europe.

Czechoslovakia and Poland combined would have 55 million people and a territory surpassing that of the combined German states, which together have a population of 80 million people.

East and West Germany, divided since World War II, have not made any definitive move toward reunification but are especially concerned about a unified Germany, partly because they have not forgotten that 6 million Poles died in World War II and also because some voices in Germany are demanding return of once-German territory awarded to Poland after the war.

Khalifa, Mubarak discuss Arab, global issues

Egypt-Qatar bonds stronger

CAIRO, Jan. 3. (Kuna): Visiting Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani today met with Arab ambassadors in Cairo and later accompanied President Hosni Mubarak on a visit to Sharm Al Sheikh in Sinai for an inspection visit to a number of industrial projects in the area.

Following the meeting with the Arab diplomats, Sheikh Khalifa told reporters that the talks touched on the outcome of his discussions with Mubarak which included Arab, Islamic and international issues topped by the Palestinian question.

On the Qatari-Egyptian relations, Sheikh Khalifa said they are significant and that he had agreed with Mubarak to push those relations forward.

On Qatari-Egyptian co-operation, Sheikh Khalifa pointed out the Qatari participation in a number of Egyptian projects. On possible future co-operation between the Gulf Co-operation Council and the Arab Co-operation Council, Sheikh Khalifa replied "why not since all GCC leaders have visited Egypt."

The Amir of Qatar, on his first visit to Egypt in 18 years, held a round of talks with President Mubarak while ministers from the two countries concluded a number of co-operation agreements covering economic, agricultural, information, transport, communications and tourist spheres.

The two sides agreed to facilitate the flow of news, television and radio programmes, and distribution of newspapers in their countries.

The agreement was initiated by the Qatari Minister of Information and Culture, Sheikh Hamad Bin Suhaim and Egypt's Information Minister Sarwar Al Shari.

Minutes of the agreement and implementation will be discussed thoroughly in April in another meeting to be held in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

The information agreement followed the approval of another agreement earlier setting up a higher joint committee between Qatar and Egypt that would be responsible for enhancing co-operation between the two Arab states in different spheres.

The Qatari Foreign Minister Abdulla Bin Khalifa Al Ateya described the current visit by Sheikh Khalifa to Egypt as being "very successful" and said it would certainly yield outstanding results that would benefit the peoples of the two countries.

He told reporters after signing the agreement on setting up the joint co-operation commission with his Egyptian counterpart Dr Esmat Abdel Megud that the bonds between Qatar and Egypt were stronger than any agreements.

He stressed that there was continuous co-ordination between the two leaderships over all Arab national issues, especially on the Palestinian cause "for which Egypt was exerting sincere and faithful efforts," he said.

The Amir of Qatar, who started his current four-day state visit to Egypt on Monday, last night attended an artistic show at the opera house and later took the underground train, accompanied by President Mubarak, from Cairo's central square "Maidan Al Tahrir" to the Qobba Presidential Palace.



The Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad (left) and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak wave to the cheering crowds as they passed through the town of Ismailia. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Envoy farewell

DEPUTY Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday received Charge d'Affaires in Syria's embassy to Kuwait Lutfi Nour Eddin who called to bid him farewell on the expiry of his term of office here.

The Syrian diplomat paid a similar visit to State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohamed Al Ossaimi.

Sheikh Sabah

DEPUTY Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed received Social Affairs Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Jabr and chairman and members of Al Farwaniya governorate's council.

Sheikh Sabah also received Kuwait's ambassadors to Damascus, Tunisia, Aden, Ahmed Abdul Aziz Al Jassem, Abdul Mohsen Al Jaan and Fawzi Al Jassem respectively as well as the counsellor of Kuwait's embassy to Washington Sheikh Ali Abdalla Al Ahmed.

Relief call

JEDDAH, Jan. 3. (Kuna): Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) Hamed Al Ghabed has called on all countries, Islamic organisations and societies to send urgent relief for Afghan mujahideen.

Ghabed said last night that the Afghan mujahideen are facing a critical situation, specially in the north, where many children died because of a cold wave and hunger.

ACC meeting

CAIRO, Jan. 3. (Kuna): Supreme Council of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) will hold a meeting next February, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the four-member council, Radio Cairo said today.

The meeting will group ACC leaders of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen Arab Republic.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki stated that the next ACC ministerial council meeting will be held Jan 16 in Baghdad.



Governor of Jazira Sheikh Ali Abdallah Al Sabah received yesterday the State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed and Minister of Justice, Dahri Al Othman. He discussed with the ministers ways of improving services at the governorate. Sheikh Ali later received director-general of the Installations Security and Special Forces Department, Brig. Yousef Al Mishari.

Joint Arab industrial projects

Official explains aims, objectives

THE director-general of the Arab Organisation of Industrial Development and Mining Dr Hatem Abdul Rasheed has said that the organisation is performing the tasks of three national organisations specialised in joint Arab industrial work. These are the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development, the Arab Organisation for Specifications and Standardisation, and the Arab Organisation for Mineral Resources.

He told a local daily that the organisation's primary aim is to effect full and integrated industrial trading co-ordination at a pan-Arab level. Tools employed by the organisation to fulfil its objectives are to encourage launching of joint Arab industrial enterprises through increasing investment opportunities.

Locating the right link between Arab developing countries and industrially advanced countries. He also said that this would facilitate industrial development through the transfer and adaptation of advanced technologies into the Arab world.

He stressed the need to establish a solid industrial base at each Arab country based on its individual economic, political and social characteristics. He further called for supporting strategic industries that would function as the supporting power for other industries to flourish.

He attributed the poor growth of Arab industries to the lack of effective co-ordination and existing industrial duplication at the individual, regional and national level.

He added that this is due to existing discrepancies in the growth rates in the Arab countries, differences in natural resources, insistence by some countries on individual attempts and fear of venturing into pan-Arab industrial spheres along with unhealthy competition.

He pointed out that Arab industrial development had missed out golden chances for growth and progress over the past two decades.

These are characterised by abundance of financial resources, better international conditions, healthier world political climate and better development prospects.

He warned against the repercussions of continued industrial under-development throughout the 1990's, particularly amidst increasing world demand for Arab raw material and the availability of cheap Arab labour.

He added that the current changes in the political spheres of West Europe and the reconciliation of major world powers would definitely be at the expense of developing, Arab countries. The new economic or political changes in the world will not serve Arab interests, the official said.

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Communication Ministry's Kuwaitisation plan

ABDUL Aziz Al Ayoub, undersecretary at the Ministry of Communications said, the ministry is going ahead with its plan to develop the administrative and technical staff by re-organising its administrative sections and giving more authority to departments to decentralise.

The official said that the ministry is following a policy of employment that focuses on depending on Kuwaiti qualifications and has contributed to increasing the number of Kuwaiti employees at the ministry. However, he clarified that this increase is limited due to the expansion in the services of the ministry.

He said that Kuwaiti employees are very choosy about the type of employment they take up and cited

the instance of employees refusing to work in distribution of telegrams and letters and as office-boys or correspondents.

Nevertheless, he said the number of Kuwaiti employees in the ministry have increased from 3,373 in 1985/86 to 5,383 in the present fiscal year and non-Kuwaitis reduced from 4,622 in the same period to 3,134. Kuwaiti employees formed 47.8 per cent of the total staff in 1985/86 which increased to 63.2 per cent this year.

Ayoub pointed out that the ministry welcomes Kuwaiti graduates specialised in administration. A programme for each graduate is provided to inspect the different departments and sections of the ministry for a period of one month to select the department of their choice.



The Egyptian and Qatari foreign ministers shake hands after signing agreements of co-operation between the two countries yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Future vision for GCC economies

Participants debate basic issues

THE cultural season organised recently by the Gulf and Arab Peninsula Centre on the theme "Gulf Co-operation Council's countries - The Reality and Aspirations" concluded on Monday.

The final seminar was devoted to debating the view of the lecture delivered by Abdul Latif Al Hamad, chairman and director general of the Arab Fund for Economic Development (AFED) on the theme of "Future Vision for GCC Economies during 1990s".

In his comments, Dr Adnan Al Sultan of the Economics Department at Kuwait University, said that the GCC oil resources should not be considered as being inexhaustible as this is a finite source of energy and the day will come when these sources of wealth will be exhausted.

Specifically, he said, the lecturer had ignored the support of the government when discouraging growth rates and cited the example where the cost of cultivating wheat was higher than imports and furthermore, negatively affected water levels of the member states.

Speaking on the workforce in the GCC countries, he said that it is marginal and does not possess the needed technical know-how. This lack of expertise in the workforce makes these workers unproductive and consequently causes a burden on the state's finances.

He added that we have to select industries that are complementary with our economics and recommended that the financial

sector be given a major role in contributing to the development process. "The financial sector will constitute the future substitute when resources of the oil sector diminish," Sultan said.

Abdullah Al Nihari, the Kuwaiti economist, lauded the statistics provided by the lecturer and commented that these could constitute a basis of reference for researchers. He called for the industrial sector to be provided with added incentives to develop and recommended that oil derivative industries should be excluded as a means of diversifying the economy.

Nihari described the problem of unemployment among Kuwaiti graduates as critical and attributed it to the educational policy. He confirmed the importance of linking the development process with that of the educational policy and the ability to upgrade and make optimum use of available human resources.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Al Khadi, another Kuwaiti economist, said that the high-level increase in the Gross National Product (GNP) which amounted to 40 per cent is basically due to the increases in oil prices and does not reflect the contributions of other sectors.

He added: "This increase has negatively affected our economies and social aspects as we failed to transfer this boom in our favour by not positively responding to the challenges of the post oil boom in prices."

He reiterated that the rapid developments throughout the world make it imperative that we move towards taking appropriate action to be congruent with such developments.

Also commenting on the lecturer's view points, Dr Yusuf Al Ibrahim, from the Faculty of Commerce, Economics and Political Science of Kuwait University, expressed several reservations on the statistics as enumerated.

He clarified that the 1990s will not be a transitional period but would be a reflection of the policies adopted during the first and second oil eras. He queried the ability of member states to address the changing economic situation during this decade. He said his unoptimistic view stemmed from two factors - limitations in national expertise and time frame for achieving results.

Ibrahim called for a major role to be played by the private sector in the development of all spheres of activity in the region and criticised the economic policies of the region and particularly referred to the absence of the tax system which should be based on a flexible vehicle for implementation of some policies.

He upheld the point of view of the lecturer which deemed that the GCC integration could not constitute a viable alternative to the Arab charter. He stressed on the importance of co-ordinating foreign economic policies and organisation of imports to include capital and consumer goods.

Education Ministry's diversified training course

SINCE 1962 and onwards, Ministry of Education has been according special concern to upgrading the performance of different departments, including that of teachers, technicians, and other administrative staff to keep abreast with rapid developments in the field of education.

This year's training scheme will cover about 7,000 employees who will participate in a total of 68 diversified training courses.

To highlight this issue, a local daily interviewed a number of officials accredited to the profession.

Naser Al Dhahi said that the new scheme is distinguished by its diversity and is comprehensive in keeping with modern development plans adopted by the ministry.

Training courses will cover several curricula, including Islamic education,

Arabic, English and French languages, in addition to upgrading of vocational capabilities and mathematics. The ministry will also organise several training courses related to artistic education, librarians capabilities, social services, domestic sciences, secretarial and 13 training courses specially tailored to computers.

A specialised scheme includes a training course for management cadre where heads of divisions will be involved in gaining expertise on top-level management procedures.

Dhahi said that the ministry intends to organise a programme of field visits to several departments and schools to obtain first-hand opinion on the quality of these training courses.

Speaking of the supervisory training

course, the official said that there are 239 trainees, including 51 principals, 51 assistant principals, 66 headmistresses and 71 assistant headmistresses.

Meanwhile, the daily interviewed a number of trainees at this course. Yusuf Al Hussaini, assistant principal at Al Rumaihiya Secondary School, described the training course as beneficial and good as it provided the trainees with valuable information related to the latest developments in the field of education.

Safiya Al Ali, assistant headmistress, said the course is useful in itself for headmistresses and their assistants and helps to keep them abreast of administrative developments which the ministry is striving to achieve. She said that trainees had benefited and called for concentrating on such workshops.

2 sentenced in absentia

THE Criminal Court sentenced two men in absentia to five-years each in jail with hard labour to be followed by deportation.

The court was told that one of the accused had relations with a girl and wanted to marry her. However, the mother refused.

To revenge, he stole the key to the flat from the daughter's purse and one of her outings and with the connivance of the other accused burgled the flat in the absence of the occupants and stole KD30,000 worth of jewellery.

Climate change baffles islanders

IT seems that the English are not the only race who start a conversation beginning with the weather in Bahrain. Nowadays Bahrainis have lately become obsessed with this natural phenomenon judging by the unpredictability of weather conditions in the country in recent years. For indeed the weather has baffled the islanders in recent times by abrupt and sometimes bizarre changes. The normal climatic factors seem no longer applicable to this beautiful island nation and change colours faster.

For instance even in the height of summer here, hard as it may sound, the heavens may suddenly crack up and a burst of downpour may cascade. On the other hand, a spell of warm even humid weather may run through intermittently in the peak of what is supposed to be winter or right now!

But this was not always the case in the 'old days.' There used to be normal seasons in the island like everywhere else. Despite the long hot and humid summer of the Arabian climate there were good cycles of springs, autumn and winter. But now perhaps with the complexity and urgency of modern life, the weather too has decided no longer to remain 'normal.'

In the just concluding year, Bahrain experienced one of its hottest and longest summers for many years. Every year the mercury seems to shoot up higher and higher and appears at times a distant dream in the island. It took so long for winter to arrive in Bahrain in 1989 that most islanders abandoned any hopes of cool days and resigned themselves to an endless summer. But when winter did arrive it took everyone by surprise, almost in a comical manner. Without any warning, which never happens anyway despite meteorological experts, it rained so heavily that islanders thought monsoon had struck. It poured incessantly for almost 3 days! It was the heaviest rainfall Bahrain experienced in 44 years. But whether it was actually cold is another matter. At least indications were that winter had come. Such is the unpredictability of the weather here that residents never know what is going to happen next. It is a mind-boggling struggle to constantly be on toes and decide whether to carry an umbrella, a raincoat, a woollen jacket and Wellington boots either separately or all at the same time.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WE always have time enough, if we will but use it right
— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German poet (1749-1832).

OPINION

Reactivate the economy

KUWAIT'S economy encompasses funds available with people, the state and available resources.

The economy can be developed by increasing the value of these.

Increase in value can be achieved through: real estate, stock exchange market and industries.

The second is undoubtedly the most important artery for Kuwait's economy as it holds the savings of the citizens during the past 40 years and is the real reserve of the public.

Through resolving its difficulties, many major problems, including the huge bad debts can be resolved. These debts are due to banks and are guaranteed by the state.

It will make no difference if the state pays these debts directly to the banks, or better still, through increasing the values of the traded assets in the stock market. Raising of assets' values will rescue dealers and ultimately rescue banks.

However, the Stock Exchange Market is still facing obstacles — perhaps as a result of misbanding by officials in charge and the neglect of the government. Value of its assets are still retreating, although we reiterate that it is the most important economic sector in the country.

Concerning the real estate market, the government has spent or committed to spend over KD 1 billion — soon after the Manakha crash. This commitment has certainly strengthened the real estate market and assets.

Some of these real estates are mortgaged to local banks and any slump in value will affect local banks. As the government has guaranteed mortgaged real estates, it will mean that the government would have to make good. Though it is a continuous chain, the government is the guarantor and should pay in case of any retreat in real estate assets.

On these guarantees, real estate investors improved their situations and paid all or some of their financial commitments and returned to the market actively.

The third aspect of our economy is industries, which we have regrettably "killed" by neglecting its requirements. Kuwait could have been a very important centre for some industries had we not missed the opportunity — like we have missed many others. The recent government-sponsored economic report comes as an attempt to redress the issue of lost opportunities of industries.

Thus, before it is too late, we must concentrate on these three fields: By inducing life into them, we can reactivate our ports, tourism, contracting and other commercial and economic activities which have been damaged through misadministration and lack of flexibility.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Cypriots seek an end to divisions

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP): For the first time since Turkey invaded in 1974, openings are appearing in the line that divides Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Some see it as the first sign of breakthrough toward reunification.

With little fanfare, ordinary Greek and Turkish Cypriots have been in touch with each other to seek an end to 15 years of political and religious division on this east Mediterranean island.

"Contact between the two communities has been increasing," noted columnist Petros Andreou in the Cyprus Mail, an English-language newspaper published in the Greek Cypriot sector.

"At least, the two sides are beginning to understand each other's position."

Events in Eastern Europe may have inspired the grassroots trend. Since the Berlin Wall began to crumble in November several groups from the rival communities have come together for the first time in nearly 16 years.

In 1974, the Turkish Army seized the northern third of the island in the wake of a short-lived coup by those seeking union with Greece. The Muslim Turkish Cypriot minority declared the Turkish-occupied north a republic in 1983, but it is recognized only by Turkey.

Cyprus still has a long way to go before the barriers come down as they have in Europe. But columnist Andreou said the 570,000-member Christian Greek Cypriot community's growing awareness of social and economic problems is finally taking the edge off their obsession with the island's divisions.

"People are beginning to realize that there's more to life than the 'national question,'" Andreou wrote.

"Perhaps the same realization is crystallizing in the north. If it is, then it's quite probable that people will eventually begin to shed all their nationalistic fixations and instead start to deal with what is really important — how they can live in peace on this island."

Since the invasion, Rauf Denktash, president of the northern statelet, has banned Turkish Cypriots from visiting the Greek sector and refused to allow Greek Cypriots to visit the north. The Greek Cypriots have imposed no travel restrictions.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1762 — Britain declares war against Spain and Naples.
- 1797 — Napoleon Bonaparte defeats Austrians at Revoli, Italy.
- 1825 — Ferdinand I of Naples dies, is succeeded by Francis I.
- 1908 — Mulai Hafid is proclaimed Sultan of Morocco at Fez.
- 1919 — Russian Bolsheviks capture Riga, Latvia.
- 1932 — Japanese forces reach Shanhaikwan on Great Wall of China. Indian government introduces emergency powers as Indian National Congress is declared illegal and Mahatma Gandhi is arrested.
- 1938 — British postpone plan for partition of Palestine.
- 1944 — Allied forces launch attack east of Cassino, Italy, in world War II.
- 1948 — Union of Burma becomes independent republic.
- 1951 — North Korean and communist Chinese forces take Seoul, Korea.
- 1959 — Disturbances break out at Leopoldville, Belgian Congo.
- 1972 — Pakistan seeks talks with India after war that resulted in East Pakistan becoming independent state of Bangladesh.
- 1973 — Montreal museum of fine arts robbed of \$2 million worth of art, including a Rembrandt valued at \$1 million.
- 1988 — Palestinians clash with Israeli soldiers in flurry of protests in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- 1989 — U.S. Navy planes, reportedly threatened, shoot down two Libyan jet fighter planes over Mediterranean Sea.



Yasser Arafat



Yitzhak Shamir

Israel says no to talks with PLO

Behind-the-scene contacts common

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (AP)—Israel's latest political crisis over cabinet minister Ezer Weizman's alleged contacts with Yasser Arafat posed the question of whether Israel was ready to talk peace with the PLO.

The answer was no, even though behind-the-scenes Israeli-PLO contacts have become almost commonplace.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud Bloc shocked the nation Sunday by announcing he was firing Weizman, the science minister and a member of the centre-left Labour Party.

Shamir accused the former defence minister of going behind his back to meet with "Israel's most dangerous enemies." Worse, he said, Weizman gave Arafat advice on how to block Israel's attempts to the keep the PLO out of proposed peace negotiations.

Weizman said his contacts with Palestinians helped advance the peace process and said the Shin Bet security service, which reports to Shamir, was aware of his contacts.

Vice Premier Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, threatened to leave the coalition and bring down the

year-old government. But in the end his party shied away from forcing elections on the issue of talking to the PLO.

The two sides compromised: Weizman would quit the decision-making inner cabinet for at least 18 months but would keep his overall cabinet post as science and development minister.

Even though he did not carry through with the threat to fire Weizman, Shamir appeared to have strengthened his position by demonstrating that he had strong backing, even in Labour, for continuing his policy of not talking to the PLO.

Labour's failure to take up Shamir's challenge disappointed Israeli doves and leading Palestinians who have been involved in efforts to arrange Palestinian-Israeli talks and election in the occupied territories.

"This government is unable to take decisive steps for peace," said Faisal Hussein, a pro-PLO activist. "Israel needs elections more than the Palestinians."

Amnon Rubinstein, a liberal parliament member and head of the Shinui (Chinese) Party, said the government should "come out and tell the truth that there is no chance for peace without talking to the

PLO."

But the Weizman affair pointed up the increasing difficulty the government is having in maintaining the credibility of its publicly declared policy of refusing all dealings with the PLO, which it views as a terror organization bent on Israel's destruction.

Weizman, 65, a longtime advocate of direct talks with the PLO, accused Shamir and even his own party leaders of hypocrisy.

He said Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin had sounded out peace proposals with Palestinians from the occupied territories who acted as direct conduits to the PLO. Weizman also said the Shin Bet secret service, which reports to Shamir, was fully informed about his PLO contacts and even offered him advice on what to say.

Peres, he disclosed, listed in one of Weizman's telephone calls to an Arafat contact in Tunis, where the PLO is headquartered, and passed on a message urging PLO acceptance of US plans for holding Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Furthermore, he argued, the government was indirectly negotiating with the PLO via the United States and Egypt.

Armenian bill haunts US-Turkey ties

ANKARA, (Reuters): Disputed claims that Armenians were victims of genocide in Ottoman Turkey have cast a long shadow over Turkey's ties with the United States, its major NATO ally.

Turkey has said passage through the US Congress of a proposed bill designating next April 24 as "a national day of remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923" would sour relations.

The Armenian issue is one of the most sensitive in Turkey, a proud mainly Muslim but secular nation forged in 1923 from the ashes of Ottoman rule. It has repeatedly denied genocide claims.

Western diplomats do not doubt Ankara's resolve to retaliate against Washington with measures that could depress relations to their lowest level in three decades if the resolution is passed.

"Genocide or any other such claims cannot be accepted. It is a misinterpretation of the incident," a Turkish Foreign Ministry official said.

"No Turkish government could ignore the public opinion outcry if such a resolution passed," he added.

Turkey last year opened Ottoman archives to public scrutiny in the hope of refuting charges that have bedevilled Ankara's image and relations with the West for decades.

"The European church and European Christian culture have used the Armenians as a tool because they have always had the image of the 'ugly Turk', Yulug Tekin Kurat, history professor at Ankara's Middle East Technical University, told a seminar.

Accounts based in part on contemporary reports by Europeans and Americans in eastern Turkey say up to 1.5 million Armenians were massacred after

Ottoman rulers decided in 1915 to deport them from the region.

Official Turkish history says Ottoman rulers, who sided with Germany in World War One, ordered the deportation of Armenians for alleged collaboration with invading Tsarist Russian forces.

Turkey, which officially puts the number of Armenians in the area at the time at least 1.2 million, has said that possibly 300,000 died as a result of war conditions and during the deportations. It says proportionately as many Turks died in the same period.

Some 50,000 Armenians, with 33 active churches of their own, now live in Turkey, mainly in the commercial centre of Istanbul.

Turkey, which relies heavily on US aid to modernise its armed forces on NATO's southeastern flank, says the passage of the proposed bill could revive Armenian guerrilla attacks, lead to demands for reparations and calls for an Armenian homeland.

Forty-one Turks, many of them diplomats and their relatives, were killed between 1973 and 1983 in attacks claimed by Armenian guerrilla groups.

Turkish sensitivity over the US resolution, proposed by Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, has been heightened by autonomy calls and unrest in Soviet Armenia, facing Turkey.

On the Turkish side lie the ruins of Ani, 1,000-year-old former capital of an Armenian kingdom that covered hundreds of square miles before its power waned in the Middle Ages.

Western diplomats say the Dole resolution is likely to go before Congress next month but its outcome is uncertain.

US diplomats in Ankara said they saw almost no chance of the resolution being put to one side, given the political power of its author, a one-time presidential aspirant.

"Passage of the bill will be a great blow here," a senior Ankara-based Western diplomat said. "The Turks have taken a political position in which it will be very difficult for them not to do something if it passes. The effects are likely to be long-lasting."

"I think Turkey and the US could be entering a phase even worse than after the Johnson letter or the US arms embargo," he added.

Relations between Turkey and the United States plunged in 1966 after the then US president Lyndon Johnson warned Ankara in a letter, after fighting between Turkish and Greek Cypriots, against any armed intervention in Cyprus.

Washington imposed an arms embargo on Turkey after Turkish troops invaded Cyprus in 1974 following a short-lived coup in Nicosia inspired by the military junta then ruling Greece.

"The Johnson letter had deep-rooted effects in Turkey and caused a crisis of confidence. The embargo, which ended in 1978, also left its mark," a Turkish official said.

Turkey has urged US President George Bush to stop the bill and says it will not accept any watering down of the draft.

"It is out of the question for us to accept any concession on this issue," Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said last month.

Turkey has already imposed token restrictions, including stopping some flying training and warship visits, on US military activities in Turkey.

Twenty years after Biafran war

Nigeria reconciled

UMUAHIA, Nigeria, (Reuters): Twenty years ago the world was shocked by images of starving children in Biafra, a breakaway enclave in eastern Nigeria where the Ibo people waged a doomed battle for independence from 1967 to January, 1970.

Hundreds of thousands of people died — some estimates say more than a million — in a conflict the international Red Cross at the time called the biggest emergency since World War Two.

The wounds have largely healed, but some Nigerians say black Africa's most populous country is still in search of a sense of nationhood.

"Nigeria remains in essence an amorphous mass of individuals busy pretending to be a people," former rebel leader General Eneke Ojukwu wrote in a book published last July.

There has been a remarkable reconciliation since the war, symbolised by Ojukwu's return from 13 years of exile in 1982. He now lives in a fine house in the best part of Lagos.

But for much of the war, Voice of Biafra Radio broadcast Ojukwu's defiant secessionist message from an underground bunker in Umuahia, a small town in modern Ibo state which was the rebel base until they were bombed out in April 1969.

Renovated and housing mementoes of the conflict, the bunker now forms part of a new war museum dedicated to national unity.

The leading protagonists, neatly framed in black and white, stare at each other across a concrete stairway leading down into it.

Inside hang harrowing images of starving, skeletal babies in besieged Biafra — images which wrung hearts across the globe as the war dragged on.

"We believed we had no alternative. It was die fighting or give up and be massacred," Ogbonna Ukelonu, a member of Ojukwu's wartime inner cabinet, told Reuters.

But the genocide the Ibo's feared when their shrinking, besieged domain eventually collapsed in January 1970 — beaten by the forces of the Lagos-

based federal military government headed by General Yakubu "Jack" Gowon — did not happen.

"I thought the federal commander who tracked me down with my family had come to shoot us. Instead he brought a peace message and the first beer I'd had in two years," said Ukelonu.

Ojukwu, who declined to be interviewed about the war, is not alone in believing that genuine unity among Nigeria's 100 million people is still elusive.

"We fought the war for unity, but in fact it alerted people to their roots," said Ray Ekpu, editor-in-chief of Newswatch magazine, a member of a non-Ibo minority in the east.

Awareness of ethnic group, state of origin, and above all religion, inflames conflicts over access to education and employment, and looms over the present military government's programme for a return to democracy by 1992.

"Nigeria is still basically a geographical expression, not a cohesive unit," said Ekpu, echoing a comment by a leading Nigerian nationalist before independence.

The country, plagued by a battle for power at the centre between three ethnically and religiously diverse regions, seemed destined to fall apart at the seams barely six years after independence from Britain in 1960.

Northern Muslims clung to political power at the expense of Western educated southern Christians whose dominance they feared.

Tensions exacerbated by widespread nepotism and corruption exploded in January 1966, when a group of young, mainly-Ibo Army officers struck at the northern-dominated government, wiping out the cream of its civilian and military leadership.

The supreme commander of the armed forces Major-General John Aguiyi-Ironsi, by coincidence an Ibo, tried to restore order, but retaliation by outraged northern Muslims against what they saw as an Ibo coup was brutal and indiscriminate.

"They pursued Ibos and killed them like

chickens," said Oliver Nwaeke, an Ibo domestic servant in Lagos at the time.

Before he could join the exodus of terrified Ibos trekking home, he hid in the attic of his European employer's home, not daring to tune to Eastern Region Radio.

Ironsi was killed in a second coup in July 1966, and a few months later young Ibos like Nwaeke, answering a call from the charismatic and uncompromising eastern region military governor Ojukwu, were wearing Biafra's rising sun symbol on their arms and fighting for independence.

"Ironsi decreed a unification. The north revolted and seized the central government. In the east, I resisted," Ojukwu said in his recent book.

Resistance, for the 9-10 million Ibos including refugees from all over Nigeria, meant an increasingly desperate battle against superior federal firepower and looming starvation.

Support for Gowon from strange bedfellows Britain and the Soviet Union outweighed the mainly moral backing Biafra received from France, China and four African countries.

Ever resourceful, the Biafrans manufactured miniature oil refineries to turn local crude oil into fuel.

They cannibalised trains and scrap vehicles to make armoured cars, and created a series of deadly weapons including mines and flying bombs.

But they were heavily outgunned and undermined by hostility from minority tribes in the east. International peace conferences failed to end the war but 32 months of resistance took its toll and on January 12, 1970, they sued for peace. The formal surrender took place on January 15.

Ibos and non-Ibos alike share the sentiments expressed by Ismaila Isa, managing director of the Democrat newspaper based in the northern city of Kaduna.

"We've seen where civil war leads, and we never want to see it again," he said.

Letters to the editor

Informative article

SIR: I would like to say how informative I found your article on the subject of English women married to Arabs. I am sure that a lot of people have gained interesting and useful knowledge.

In my case, I did not change my passport, religion and views. I, however, familiarised myself with my position when first taking up residence here. So I know where I stand.

Some change their religion and take another name, but this is an individual right.

Since reading your comments I hope that people will not look at my Kuwaiti spouse and think he is any of the unpleasant things written about. This would be so unkind as he is a most honest, fair, generous, pleasant and hardworking person anyone could meet. His whole existence is to make life easier and better for his family.

Another point which I considered rather off the mark was the insinuation regarding our background. We originate from honest and true working class backgrounds, similar to those houses in Kuwait to which we are now related.

All my friends have made good marriages, and none of their children suffer because of the mixed culture. This is their culture and environment.

I like the sun and sand and the slow pace everyone tunes into; and I like the pleasant service in shops and everything majestic.

I do not know any Kuwaiti who is mean to his children/wife. I consider them gentlemen.

Those of us who have produced males are contributing to the future generation of Kuwait. There is so much new blood being introduced into this society, and it is interesting to see the results growing into nationalistic, young Kuwaiti men.

May Kuwait prosper and grow, and may our offspring thrive and reproduce and live happily in this, their, society.

Bette Saif, Almadia.

Accept criticism

SIR: With reference to various letters in the Arab Times, about UMO activities, and being a strong believer of moral and ethical values, I suggest UMO should accept constructive criticism, in order to reinforce the organisation's unity, strength, honour and pride! But it seems that UMO has some members with bad approach and negative ideas.

In that case, it becomes utmost necessary that these anti-progressive elements within the organisation who presumably lost the office bearers election and are appearing in the form of obstacles and critics in progressive path, must be removed; failing which the basic purpose of progressive march towards good objectives and aims would be defeated!

I, along with many other Indians would appreciate the critics, if they come forward to shoulder responsibilities of many unwanted tasks relevant to the poor people. Irrespective of cast, creed and religion. Last but not least criticism in most of the cases appear out of lack of selflessness. Endeavours of the organisation must remain pious and firm to dispel any doubts and questions raised by the people.

Mohammed Abdul Latheef, Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"Entering the race, the state sector, which until recently had been greatly favoured by subsidisation and monopoly rights in many respects, showed visible embarrassment due to its cumbersome and inefficient managerial mechanism and outdated technology." — Vietnam news agency lambasting state-owned enterprises for inefficiency.

"He must have known he was in trouble, disoriented and just laid down and died. There were no bruises or scratches, so he wasn't 'buried'." — Ranch manager Johnny Farrar on the death of Texas' oldest working cowboy.

"America is no longer the superpower she was and is entangled in a drug war, AIDS, political scandals and an economic crisis." — Kayhan, an Iranian newspaper.

"As the world looks back to nine decades of war, of strife, of suspicion, let us also look forward to a new century, and a new millennium, of peace, freedom and prosperity." — Bush in a New Year message to Soviets.

"The year 1990 could become a genuine turning point in the efforts to limit and reduce arms. We, on our part, shall do everything for that." — Gorbachev in a New Year message to Americans.

"We will work together to reduce barriers to trade, investment and the free movement of goods and ideas. In these ways, and as your economic reforms take place, the entry of the Soviet Union into the global market can be advanced." — George Bush to Soviets.

"Your own Leo Tolstoy said that if our hearts are empty, no law or political reform can fill them. These values — belong to all men and women, through all time, and in all places." — Bush to Gorbachev.

"I am sure that we have all the political and moral factors to confront any type of problem and that nothing and no one will make our nation backslide to a new century of stagnation. We are not going to allow the enemy to destroy what we are doing." — Cuban leader Fidel Castro vowing nothing would divert Cuba from socialism.

"While reading the history of the posts that you have taken, we come to the conclusion that the period of corruption started when you took your first past as prime minister." Ahmed Oweidi Ahbadi, referring to Jordanian prime minister's earlier terms as premier in the mid-1970s and early 1980s.

"It offers the chance of a free and unified Germany in a free and unified Europe. European Economic Community must not end at the Elbe. But without the deep-reaching changes in the Soviet Union, in Hungary and in Poland the peaceful revolution in the GDR (East Germany) would not have been possible." — Kohl on the coming decade for the Germans.

"We hold that the North and the South should remove the barrier between them, ensure free travel and open all their doors. First of all, the concrete wall built in the area south of the military demarcation line must be pulled down. In order to remove the barrier of national division and (ensure) free travel between the North and the South and a full-scale open door, negotiating between them must be held without delay." — Kim Il-sung, leader of N. Korea.

مكذاه الأهل

Egypt to buy wheat for cash

CAIRO, Jan 3. (Reuters): Egypt has offered to use scarce hard currency to replenish its depleted stocks of wheat after France refused to provide supplies on credit in a dispute over unpaid debts, foreign experts said today.

France, a major supplier, has held up wheat and flour sales because of the debt row, threatening Egypt with a major supply crisis by June this year, the experts say.

To head off the shortfall, Egypt will tender for 200,000 tonnes on Jan 20, trade sources in Paris said.

Egypt last bought wheat for cash in June with a world tender for 200,000 tonnes, marking the first time it had made a complete cash purchase since the early 1970s.

But foreign experts say the cash offer will still not be enough to prevent stocks falling to dangerously low levels.

Egypt, the world's third largest wheat importer after the Soviet Union and China, imports about seven million tonnes of wheat each year to keep up supplies of subsidised bread.

Despite cash problems, the government cannot risk cutting back wheat imports, fearing rioting by a population already sorely-hit by economic depression.

Trade sources estimate that Egypt needs to import about 460,000 tonnes of wheat every month and 125,000 tonnes of wheat flour. Without French wheat stocks could fall to less than 100,000 tonnes by June.

Wheat flour stocks earlier peaked at 1.5 million tonnes in June, although France has since agreed to send 40,000 tonnes of wheat flour in food aid.

Egypt buys about 40 per cent of its wheat from the United States with the rest divided roughly equally between the European Economic Community and Australia. Most is bought on credit.

It has so far agreed to buy 1.5 million tonnes of wheat from Australia — with part of the payment in cash — and has some supplies due in from the United States.

Australia is also supplying 50,000 tonnes of wheat under its food aid programme.

But France, the main EEC supplier, said last month it would not provide export credit guarantees to cover the shipment of 150,000 tonnes of wheat flour because of credit disputes.

Government officials in Paris said today France and Egypt planned to hold talks in Cairo this month to try to resolve the dispute.

Foreign experts said it was unclear which debts were involved but could include arrears on previous wheat sales. It does not include debt which would be subject to rescheduling at any agreement at the Paris Club of creditor nations.

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EEC trade proposals fall short of Arab hopes

BAHRAIN, Jan 3. (Reuters): European Economic Community proposals for a free trade pact with Gulf Arab states fall far short of the developing bloc's expectations and will make negotiations long and difficult, regional officials say.

Members of the six-state Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) say they are disappointed with trade proposals approved by the EEC last month because they do not lift painful protective barriers against the group's key industries.

One obstacle to a quick agreement with the EEC is the failure of the Gulf states so far to

agree common tariffs within the region, necessary in any bargaining with the European grouping.

But the bigger problem is that the GCC sees as EEC insistence on blocking its crucial petrochemical and other products.

"The proposed draft does not fulfill our desire for a more open market between the two regions," Abdullah Al Quwzeid, GCC secretary general for economic affairs, said.

"We are attempting to diversify our economies into new avenues for petrochemicals, aluminium and refined products ... there are measures which will hinder the accessibility of these

to the European market," he told Reuters by telephone from his Riyadh office.

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates form the GCC, an economic and political alliance.

The group has been urging the 12-member EEC, its main trading partner, to lift tariffs on GCC exports to help narrow a trade deficit which reached \$4.4 billion in 1988.

EEC products account for over 40 per cent of the GCC market. Most enter with little or no duty while cheaply-produced Gulf petrochemicals face tariffs

of up to 14 per cent.

EEC Industrial Affairs Commissioner Martin Bangemann visited Saudi Arabia and Bahrain last week in a bid to reassure Gulf officials that the scheduled 1992 breakdown of remaining barriers within the EEC was not meant to keep out their products.

Quwezid described the talks as encouraging but said a period of "long and complicated negotiations" lay ahead.

Under the free trade proposals — which follow a preliminary economic agreement signed in 1988 — GCC states would scrap duties on all European products

over eight years.

In return, the community would immediately eliminate duties on all GCC products except for three lists of "sensitive" items which include most that matter. Tariffs on these would be phased out over eight to 12 years.

The proposals would also allow GCC states to put 20 per cent duties on some products to protect infant industries up to a value of 10 per cent on total trade.

EEC industrialists fear a flood of cut-price imports from the area. One GCC official said the

proposals were unfair because the lists of sensitive products — which include about 46 types of petrochemicals — were too long.

Another said it would take months before direct talks could begin because the GCC had yet to agree on key policy issues.

"The GCC has to agree to freeze customs tariffs during the negotiating period and to decide on reference tariffs from which to make their concessions," he said.

The GCC decided at an annual summit last December to further delay a proposed customs pact for three years.

However, officials from both sides say meetings scheduled between GCC and EEC petrochemical chiefs in Brussels in January and between industrialists from both sides in Spain in February would help speed up a trade agreement.

"It's a question of industry, not politics," James Kubosch, an aide to Bangemann, said in Bahrain on Monday.

"Everyone is afraid now but they will get to know each other and identify and discuss problem points," he said.

Foreign ministers from the GCC and the EEC would also discuss the issue at a meeting on March 17 in Muscat, Kubosch said.

Greater private-led growth vital: Oman

Muscat stays cautious on economy

DUBAI, Jan 3. (Reuters): Oman looks set to achieve a real 1990 budget deficit lower than projected but remains cautious due to notoriously volatile oil prices, and hopes to set a firmer basis for greater private-led growth in the future.

This year's budget, announced on Monday, set a 1990 deficit of 314 million rials (\$815 million) with spending eight per cent higher at 1.75 billion (4.5 billion) and revenue at 1.43 billion (3.7 billion).

The government, repeating its policy of 1989, projected 1990 revenues on an oil price of \$12.50 a barrel while the final average was around \$15 to 16 for last year.

Independent economists believe Oman budgeted 1989 revenues on an oil price of \$12.50 a barrel while the final average was around \$15 to 16 for last year.

Oil revenues account for about 90 per cent of total state income. Oman yesterday raised its monthly December crude price to

\$17.70 per barrel.

Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Bin Abdulmonim Al Zawawi said that for this same reason the real 1989 deficit would come out lower than the projected 407.6 million rials (\$1.1 billion), but did not say by how much.

Omani ministers and officials in a series of reports for the coming year outlined their plans for a gradual reduction in the state's role in the economy.

The policy is similar to that in other Gulf Arab oil producing countries which have begun to see the dangers of continually leading growth through spending state incomes which rely almost exclusively on moves in world oil prices.

Cutting the state role may not be easy. State spending as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), which is the value of all goods and services produced in the economy, was 55 per cent in 1988 and as high as 67 per cent in 1986, the year of Oman's biggest recorded deficit

following the oil price collapse. Commerce and Industry Minister Salem Bin Abdullah Al Ghazali said government policy should encourage the private sector to participate more effectively in economic development.

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Mohammed Bin Abdullah Bin Zaher Al Hinafi said his sector would try to produce more food to cut down imports, and create jobs.

The sector is only four to five per cent of total gross domestic product but growing quickly, especially in fisheries.

Senior Central Bank official Mohammed Abdul Aziz Kalmoor said monetary stability remained a cornerstone policy.

Oman's other main concern is holding off imported inflation due to its large imports of consumer and capital items.

"Imported inflation ... is more difficult to contain," said Kalmoor in his report.

Economists say anti-inflationary measures in the European Economic Community, which is

Oman's biggest trade partner, will help contain imported inflation.

But the recent rise in most EEC currencies against the dollar could offset this by raising EEC import prices in Oman, where the rial is effectively linked to the dollar.

Omani officials see import diversification as the answer to this particular dilemma.

Independent economists see a long-term improvement only through a greater private sector role in developing the manufacturing and processing sector to substitute imports.

Oman, however, is confident of a better future for its oil output in the next five years. Oil Minister Said Bin Ahmed Al Shanfari said Oman could reach 670,000 barrels per day oil output over the next five years from 600,000 now.

Oman's main oil problem is lack of major reserves. Shanfari said proven reserves now are 4.2 billion barrels and he was optimistic more would be found.

Industrialisation progressing at a rapid pace

Loan conditions soft, says GIB

This is the third part of the article "GCC urged to map industrial strategy." First part appeared on Tuesday, Jan 2.

While their main focus of operations is manufacturing, other priority sectors are included, namely agriculture in the case of the Oman Development Bank (ODB) and services that are associated with industrial sectors. Loan conditions are soft with lending rates well below commercial rates.

Loans extended by Sidf are charged at 2 per cent while IBK charges 5 per cent on new projects and 6.2 per cent on expansion of existing ones. The Oman Development Bank charges 6 per cent if the project is located in the capital area or in Rasayl industrial estate and 4 per cent for those located elsewhere.

Maturity ranges from 5-7 years with a two year grace period (Kuwait), with maturity reaching up to 10 years in Oman and 15 years in Saudi Arabia.

A secondary yet critical role played by development banks is its non-financial support. The identification of development opportunities, translation into viable projects, provision of technical and other support services are as crucial as the actual mobilisation of resources.

Gulf development banks and funds have developed extensive capabilities of appraisal, evaluating feasibility studies

submitted by investors, monitoring projects during implementation and providing supportive financial, managerial, marketing and technical assistance to the projects.

Between 1974 and 1988, the Saudi Industrial Development Fund extended more than \$4 billion worth of concessional loans to a total of 997 projects in the manufacturing sector. The construction material sector accounted for 41 per cent of total loans extended, followed by metal and engineering products (21 per cent), chemical (20 per cent), consumer products (18 per cent) and other manufacturing (1 per cent).

The Industrial Bank of Kuwait extended concessional loans to the country's manufacturing sector worth over \$1 billion for around 382 projects over the period 1974-1988, while the total loans commitment of Oman Development Bank was \$119 million to 237 projects since its inception in 1979.

Emirates Industrial Bank, a relative newcomer with operations beginning in 1983 had by the end of 1988 allocated \$68.4 million to 72 projects in the industrial sector.

At the regional level, the Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC), established in 1984 by the six Gulf states with a capital of \$2.1 billion (\$540 paid up) provides Gulf private investors with a

broad range of financial services as well as participation in loan funding and equity of various companies, industrial and other. Commercial viability has been the key test for GIC's participation in investment projects.

The cumulative number of projects identified since the formation of GIC is over 120. Currently 35 of these projects are under evaluation and a further 11 had already been approved. The total financial requirements of the approved projects exceed \$900 million.

To encourage greater flow of commercial bank lending to the industrial sectors, a joint financing mechanism needs to be developed that would pool the resources of the region's industrial development funds with those of the commercial banks.

While development institutions could extend financing to industrial projects at the longer end of the maturity profile, commercial banks would step in at the shorter end providing working capital, bonding requirements and import finance facilities.

Alternatively, commercial and development loans may be linked through a cross-default clause, whereby a payment default on the commercial loan will constitute a default on the concessional loan, and will trigger suspension of disbursement to the borrower from the development institution.

(Concluded)



Saeed Al Naqeeb of Al Naqeeb and Khattar, receiving the IASA shield of appreciation from the IASA chairman at the official opening of the 37th IASA general assembly meeting recently.

Nazih Khattar reviews IASA operations

IMFA spreads its wings

A GENERAL meeting of the members of the International Maritime Forwarding Association (IMFA) took place recently at Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel. The Association was established in May 1989 in Beijing as an offshoot of the International Air Shipping Association (IASA) which held its 37th General Assembly meeting at the Regency Palace Hotel. The bi-annual meeting was hosted in Kuwait by the international freight forwarding company, Al Naqeeb and Khattar.

IASA is strictly an air freight association. We felt it was necessary to form the equivalent but related to the shipping business," commented Dominique Poist, chairman of IMFA. He explained that the increased competition from the multinational freight forwarding giants has made it necessary for medium sized, independent firms to work in close co-operation and pool their resources. This network arrangement has several advantages, he said.

"We liaise directly with members on the shipping route or destination to ensure a more efficient, flexible and personalised 'door-to-door' service. IMFA is also in the process of gaining recognition from major international shipping lines."

Presently there are thirteen exclusive IMFA members representing their respective countries, with four more currently under review, to join the group. The former includes Kuwait, France, West Germany, Taiwan, Korea, China, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Singapore, Philippines and Thailand.

The meeting in Kuwait covered several topics related to international shipping, including communications and media. "I feel it is important to promote fellow members whenever possible in advertisements and this can be done by highlighting a particular route. IMFA are not international or multinational — we are 'combinational' — and work closely as a team," Poist said.

IMFA's Kuwait delegate, Al Naqeeb and Khattar was represented by R.R. Rajendra, International Freight Manager, and Saad Darwish, Operations Manager.

Rajendra told the Arab Times that within one year, the concept and philosophy of IMFA will be known world-wide, and its significance in servicing the freight industry will be appreciated by all export/import houses, the construction industry and

wherever IMFA members are present.

IMFA's continuous efforts will be a step forward in improving the existing level of service in shipping and forwarding industry," Rajendra said.

Al Naqeeb and Khattar, as a pioneer in freight forwarding and a Kuwait based IMFA member, has already significantly contributed towards IMFA achieving their goals.

On Tuesday, Nov 21, 1989 the International Air Shipping Association (IASA) held their 37th bi-annual General Assembly meeting at the Regency Palace Hotel, Kuwait. More than seventy delegates representing international air freight companies attended the meeting which was hosted by the Kuwait-based air freight company and member, Al Naqeeb and Khattar.

According to Nazih Khattar, Director of Al Naqeeb and Khattar, the 37th General Assembly meeting discussed a number of highly topical issues, such as the EEC developments after 1992, an overall move towards 'globalisation' and management structure.

"One of the main achievements of the Assembly was the establishment of a new committee specifically to study the formation of a computerised network to provide a state-of-the-art communications system on a world-wide basis for IASA members," Khattar said.

Additionally, he explains, a new category of membership was agreed upon, that of affiliate members who, due to restrictions beyond their control (such as political, economic etc.), were formerly unable to become full IASA members. Two air freight companies, Servicios Aduaneros de Argentina and Despard of Bulgaria have consequently been granted affiliate membership. The latter constitutes the first Eastern bloc country to be recognised by IASA, a move which Khattar describes as a "breakthrough and important development in our increasing trend towards globalisation."

In keeping with this goal, several countries including Mexico, Senegal, Norway, Japan, Iran, Sweden and Central America, overall, are being studied for possible inclusion in the IASA network, Khattar said.

The next IASA board meeting will take place in Dublin in February with the 38th General Assembly scheduled for May 1990 in Vienna.

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Currency rates

KUWAIT, Jan 3. (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

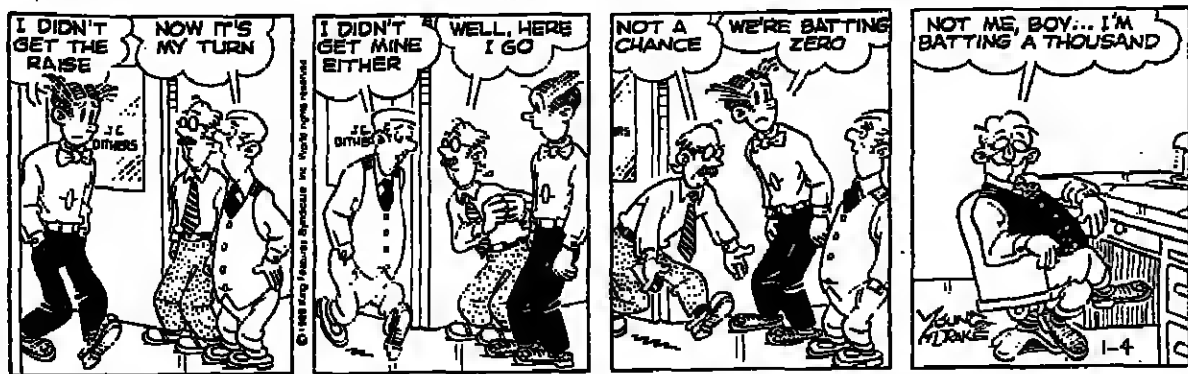
	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.2273	0.2324
Sterling	0.47170	0.47325
DM	0.17025	0.17085
Sfr	0.18525	0.18590
Ffr	0.04980	0.05000
ILlira	0.000270	0.000285
Arg peso	0.002005	0.002020
Bah din	0.77645	0.77870
UAE Dir	0.07965	0.08005
S. riyal	0.07805	0.07830
Q. riyal	0.08035	0.08065
O. riyal	0.76000	0.76240

Interest Rates

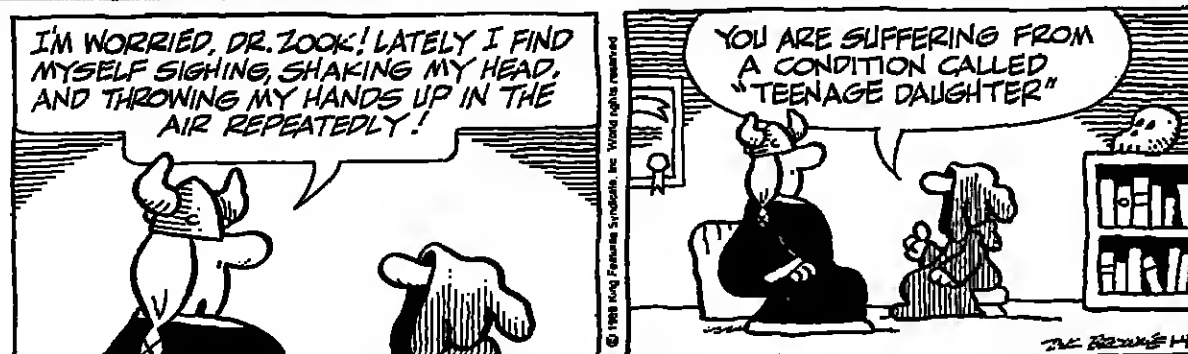
KUWAIT, Jan 3. (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/4	8-1/2
3 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
6 months	8-1/4	8-5/16
1 year	8-1/4	8-5/16

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



NAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



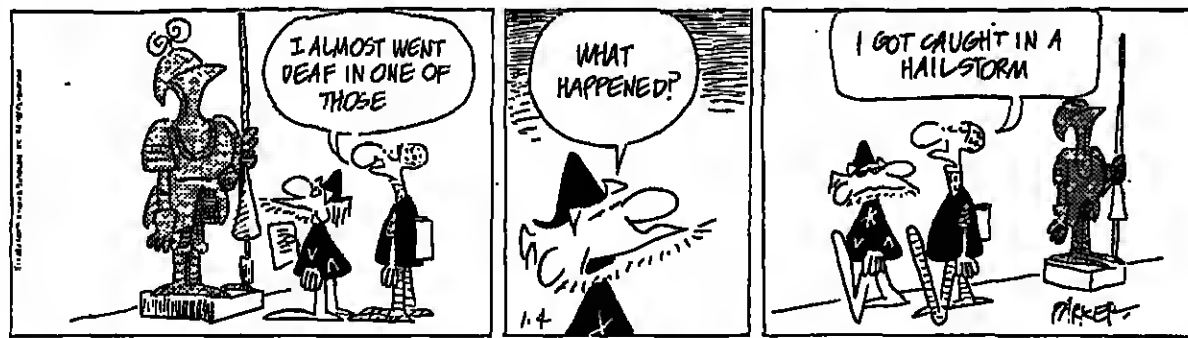
AGATHA CRUM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



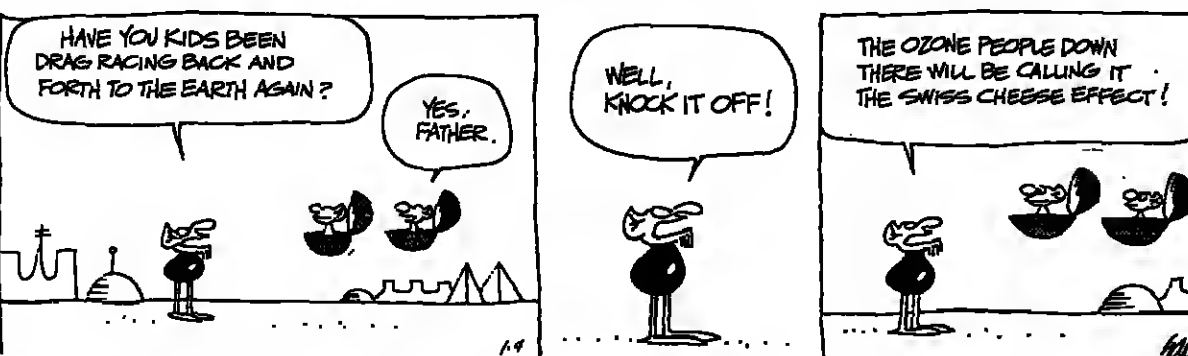
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



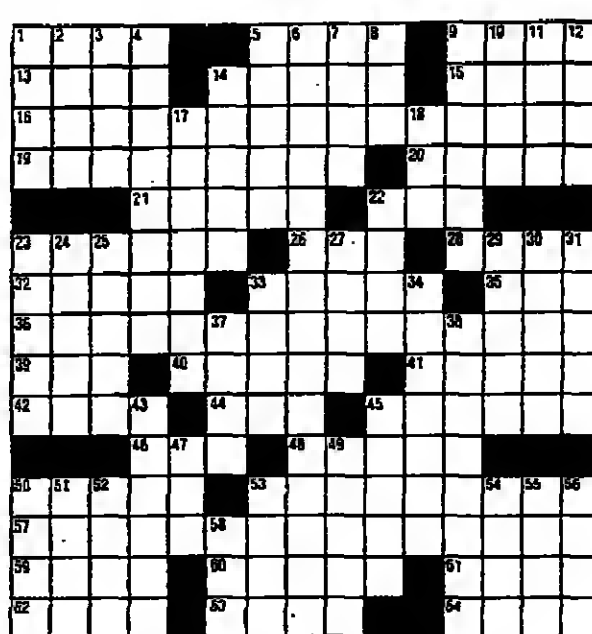
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Caper
 - Ambracia, today
 - Reputation
 - Popular name in Oslo
 - Fast
 - Author Ludwig
 - Posta estate
 - Win, eye-wisa
 - Civic burden
 - Means of enforcement
 - "In" thing
 - Puts on
 - "— a man die, shall he live again?"
 - Job
 - Pronto, pls.
 - Chile con —
 - Savoy dance
 - UK honor
 - Ailing
 - Hula Bowl item
 - Send bar
 - Cat's-paws
 - Entrusted
 - Euripedes drama
 - Mortar adjunct
 - Country stopover
 - Dingies
 - Animated
 - Become passa
 - Candlestick
 - Park, for one
 - and anon
 - Grimeces
 - Like most basketball players
 - River in
 - Cumbria
 - CEO, usually
 - Sole
- DOWN**
- Poodles
 - "— a Song Go Out..."
 - Actor Andrews
 - Implication
 - Apporion
 - Patriotic colors
 - Adolescent
 - Part of NATO
 - Segebrush
 - State
 - NYSE neighbor
 - Bog
 - Cities in
 - Minnesota and Nevada
 - Passes the peek
 - Short jackets
 - Giva — whirl
 - Renown
 - Seal pat
 - Group of experts
 - Do — (all out)
 - Capon
 - Not — (medicore)
 - Harvey's — for Adano
 - Intrinsically
 - Go away!
 - Knee cap
 - Scarcely credible
 - Threw et
 - Frogmen
 - Machinations
 - N of Kan.
 - Double curves
 - Collude with
 - Batha
 - Words of ken
 - Swan genus
 - Actress
 - Phillips
 - Choose
 - Peggotty: Dickens character
 - Fuse abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SLEEPIS AWL PAITE
ANVIL STIDA ERAS
STIDIA MENDICANT
SOLDAN ANY NOISE
UTTERS ESSAYS
APT SAT ARI
REID TENNESSEE
TRIDUT NAE TENET
TINCIDENCE ATIL
TED DDE EYE
SPIRAIN CONDDR
TIARA BIT ILLUM
EXTENSIVE CENSE
RIOT ADES TATER
NENE GET SNORE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

USE YOUR ASSETS WISELY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ A Q 8 5 2
♥ K J 9
♦ A 3
♣ A K 3

WEST

♠ J 10
♥ 7 4
♦ K J 9 6 5 4
♣ 8 5 2

EAST

♠ K 9 7 6 3
♥ 6 5 2
♦ 10 7
♣ 9 7 4

SOUTH

♠ 4
♥ A Q 10 8 3
♦ Q 8 2
♣ Q J 10 6

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
2 NT	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 NT	Pass	7 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

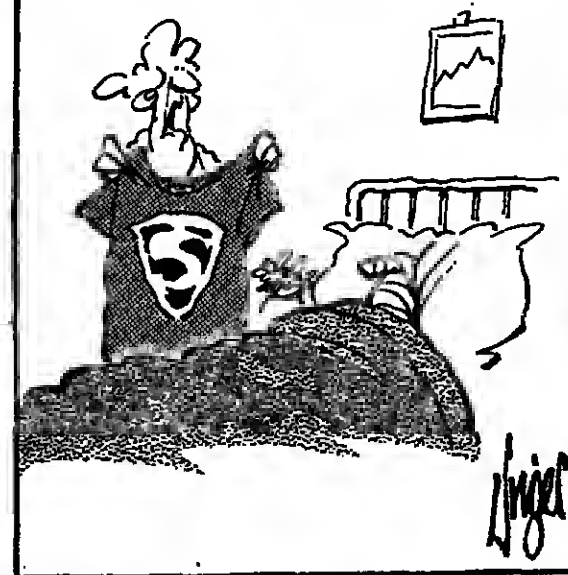
Before playing to the first trick, count your winners. Then make sure that you plan a line of play that will produce at least the number of tricks you need for your contract.

When South showed a heart suit, North's hand improved considerably. It contained a wealth of controls, good support and a ruffing value. North conveyed that with a cue-bid of his cheapest ace and

South's return cue-bid showed second-round spade control and slam aspirations. North launched into the Grand Slam Force, and an ambitious contract of seven hearts was reached when South held the two missing top trump honors.

West led the jack of spades, and there were only 11 fast tricks in sight. In view of the opening lead, the spade finesse was unlikely to succeed. One way to develop the extra tricks was to try to set up the spade suit. In the process, declarer came up with a remarkable dummy reversal.

South won the first trick with the ace and immediately ruffed a spade, noting the fall of the ten from West. A club to the king and another spade ruff confirmed the bad break in that suit. Now declarer had to hope for a 3-2 trump break. 1 sing the table's other club winner and ace of diamonds, in that order, as entries, declarer ruffed two more spades, the last with the ace of trumps. He still had a heart left with which to cross to the board to draw trumps. Declarer was then able to take two more club tricks in hand to bring home the bacon. To all, he made seven trump tricks (four via ruffs), one spade, one diamond and four clubs.



"They said you were wearing this when you fell off the roof."

YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20

You will be pleased with yourself for having solved a tricky problem. Well done, but do not rest on your laurels. If you think there is plenty of time, you are wrong. Be reasonable.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You will have the wind in your sails but you are sailing in the wrong direction. However, it is not too late to make amends. Your lucky numbers are 17 and 41. Be observant.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

There will be a good opportunity but you will have to act fast if you do not want to miss it. You are more likely to be forgetful, so do not rely on your memory alone. Take the best care of your health. Be less dogmatic.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You must avoid a too sedentary existence: take some exercise but not so much that you feel exhausted. There will be some tensions and you should do all you can to minimize them. Show just a little more goodwill. Be sincere.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Nothing is quite to your liking but you will be able to cope with. You will be able to correct a mistake before it is too late. Make sure you do not eat too many sweet things. Be helpful.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 23

You will be right but you should not boast about it: you could just as easily have been wrong. Show a little more sympathy towards someone less fortunate than you. Use more common sense. Be less impatient.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

If you ask for too much you will get less than if you were to be more reasonable. You should stick to your principles and have the courage of your convictions. Do not exceed safe limits. Be thorough.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

You are liable to be distracted and should do all you can to keep your mind on the job. Something you are learning will turn out to be not quite so easy, but do persevere. Not all is as it seems to be, so look beneath the surface too. Be tactful.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will fire easily so do all you can to conserve your energies. Avoid leaving letters unanswered. Do not expect others to agree with all you say. Be fair.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Something you had not expect to happen will, but something you had expected would happen will not. Do not wait until the very last minute. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Be magnanimous.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You will easily be irritated and should try to control yourself. Remember you too have your irritating side. You should make sure you do not get into bad habits and you should not be hostile to change. Be reliable.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

There is no need for pessimism but nor for excessive optimism either. Do not lose sight of your objectives. Not everything is to your liking but you will be able to live with it. Be more tolerant.



"You're being charged with 'disturbing the ambience.'"



"This is my husband, the last of the big suspenders."

Indian Cinema

Hindi films of 1990s

Quality needed for survival

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

WITH the dawn of 1990, not only do we look forward to the start of a new year but also of a new decade and that the last of the present century as well. The 90s will lead us to the 21st century, exactly a hundred year since motion pictures were invented and first shown in India. But does it hold a bright future for the Hindi cinema with its strange marketing slots.

For any art form or mass medium to survive, quality, variety and work discipline are a must. Sadly these are lacking in the big Bombay bazaar. Despite all that, there were various interesting things being cooked and these will see the light of the projector in the new year.

So what are the films we should look forward to, with some hope? First, let's turn to the 280 films, completed but not seen. Among them, the first to come will be those already bought up by distributors of all territories, followed by the ones to get sold by book or crook. Here the star producers have an edge above others, as they can afford to wait to get big prices. Also to arrive will be those under production in 1989, which are abundantly financed or already bought for all zones.

The most awaited is Amitabh Bachchan and director Mukul Anand's 18-reeler "Agneepath", a crime drama to Hollywood style, with the tall hero in an "angry" image without comedy, romance, songs, dances. These things will be left to the supporting cast of Madhvi, Mithun,

Neelam, Pran. The funny role of Mithun as a South Indian is being much talked about. Another star producer Rajesh Khanna's film "Jai Shiv Shankar" is also on the release schedule. Based on a Malayalam hit mixing crime and politics, its main attraction is that Dimple acts with ex-husband Rajesh, supported by Jeetendra, Poonam, Chunky and Sangeta. R.D. Burman has given good music after a big gap.

Harmesh Malhotra's "Amiri Garibi" with Jeetendra, Rekha, Rishi, Babbar, Poonam, Neelam, Pran could be another staple hit. Hema Malini's "Awargi" directed by Mahesh Bhatt, with Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi, Govinda may come if only the Bengal zone gets sold. Lesser hopes for Hema's "Maarg", having shades of Osho Rajnish's life, played by Anupam Kher, with Hema also acting opposite Vinod Khanna and Dimple. It is still unsold for 13 sub-divided zones. Deepak Bahry's much-delayed formula stuff "Humse Na Takrana" with Dharm, Shatrui, Mithun, Anita Raj, Kimi may overcome some hassles and get released. So too Rajendra Kumar's "Jurrat".

On a smaller scale, Ramsay's "Kaali Ganga" with Dimple as a dacoit may get a matinee screening. So too "Khatarnaak" with Sunjay Dutt, Anita, Farha, "Khule-Am" by Guru Dutt's son Arun having Dharm, Chunky, Neelam, "Mahasagar" with Vinod Khanna, Madhuri, Govinda, Aditya, Sonu Walia and debutante Shabana (Dilip Kumar's niece), B.

Subhash's "Pyar Ke Nam Qurban" with Mithun, Dimple, Mandakini and Bepi Labari's music, Raj Sippy's "Qurban Rang Layegi" with Sunjay Dutt, Padmini, Poonam, Sawao Kumar's "Souten ki Beti" with Jeetendra, Rekha, Jaya Prada, Dipati and a few more. But what about more than 200 other films lying in the cases?

Next on the charts are the films progressing fast when the year begins, to be (hopefully) completed and released before December. They can be spotted from the progress they have made (anything between ten and fifteen reels). R.K.'s "Henna" is a six reels ready but the remaining work will be fast, since the heroine is new and free. Other brother Shashi will surely release his Indo-Soviet "Ajooba" (19 reels) with Amitabh, Rishi, Dimple, Soomai and Russian artists. Ramesh Sippy's "Akeela", also with Amitabh, and baving Jackie, Meenakshi, Amrita, and Shashi Kapoor himself is nearing completion and almost sold out. Chandra Barot's "Boss" with Vinod Khanna and Jaya Prada looks another certain arrival.

Amir Khan, the hot cake of 88-89 was pushed into the cold by "Love Love Love" and "Raakh". His films are lying mostly unsold, like "Dil" and "Deewana Mujhsa Nahin" both with Madhuri, and "Daulat ki Jung" with Jubi. Dev Anand's "Awwal Number" and Amir's family production "Tum Mere Ho" if sold may resurrect his hero image. Anil and Jackie are riding the crest of success and there will be no lack of money for

their films, like "Gang", "Angaar", "Kishan Kanhaiya", "Beasam Badshah", "Ghar Ho To Aisa", "Hisab Chukta". So too for B.O. favourite Mithun's films, like "Yugandhar".

Among other big new films for the year there will be Shakti Samanta's "Dushman" with Mithun and Mandakini, Sattee Shouri's "Farishtay" having multiple stars Dharm, Vinod Khanna, Rajnikant, Sri Devi and even Jaya Prada as guest. K.R. Reddy's "Garja" with Sri Devi, Rishi and Vinod Khanna (the winning combination of "Chandni") N. Chandra's "Humla" (Dharm, Anil, Meenakshi, Kimi) and "Narsimha" (Sunny, Dimple), Babbar's own "Karm Yodha" with himself and Dimple, Deepak Sareen's "Ranbhoomi" with Jeetendra, Shatrughan, Rishi and Dimple, Boney Kapoor and Satish Kaushik's "Roop Ki Rani, Choron Ka Raja" with Anil, Jackie, Sri Devi and David Dhawan's "Swarg" having Govinda, Jubi, Rajesh Khanna and so on. Also "Ghar Ka Chirag" with Rajesh, Chunky, Neelam.

There are strange cases of notable films which may or may not arrive. Sunil Dutt's "Yeh Aag Kab Bhulhegi" on the dowry problem, with himself, Rekha and Shreeha lies unsold everywhere unless he gets tax exemption. B.R. and Ravi Chopra were so busy with TV serial "Mahabharat" that they have failed to attract distributors for "Dharam Shakti" with Sunil, Mithun, Gaurav, Neelam, Sujata. "Lekin" of Lata Mangeshkar with Dimple and Vinod is avoided because Gulzar's name is B.O. poison. Rekha's ambitious "Madam Z" and "Sheshnaag" are also in suspense. Ramesh Sippy's multi-star "Zameen" (Vinod, Sri Devi, Sunjay Dutt, Madhuri) showed slow progress till now.

But before the year ends, there may be a big show if Subhash Ghai pulls off his "Saudagar" with egotists like Raj Kumar and Dilip Kumar, aided by Jackie, Anupam, Amrishi. And his new find Manisha Koirala along with R.K.'s Zeba Bakhtiar and Dev's Fatima Sheikh may prove to be the bright spots on the new year's horizon.

Behind the screen

Kamal Amrohi's son Tajdar has taken an unusual vow in the following words: "Aye Mere Allah. Give me wisdom, give me courage, give me strength. For I, Tajdar Amrohi, having bequeathed (sic: wroog word) my faith in you, humbly declare that I shall never write or direct a film in future, if I fail to hit the bull's eye with my very first picture "Kik Nunda Ka Chor", and if I fail to satisfy the masses, classes and critics with my film." But we wonder what he will do or say if his movie fails to get buyers or gets a shabby release in small centres. Will he then blame the Bombay trade or stick to his oath and leave the industry?

For "Henna", the R.K. camp and hero Rishi are taking the "Chandni" success too much for granted. They proclaim: "Only love... no sex, no violence in our film". But then the R.K. tradition and secret of success are to expose the heroines. Perhaps, they are scared of what Pakistan's Prime Minister Beazir Bhutto advised new heroine Zeba and also Randhir Kapoor. The new girl herself is dead against body exposure. So indus-

try people say in mocking tones: "What will a R.K. film be without sex, without a 'Chandni' like Sri Devi and that too directed by Randhir Kapoor and not the great showman?"

Muzaffar Ali completed eleven reels of his film "Zooni" with Dimple as the Kashmiri poetess Habba Khatoon. But further progress was blocked as finance dried up and the film lay "open" for sale of all territories. To add to Muzaffar's cup of misery Shabana suddenly pulled up the producer for non-payment of dues on the earlier film "Anjuman", another film lying unreleased for years. The industry associations took steps to stop work on "Zooni" till Shabana is paid off. Was the lady showing her artistic anger or professional one against Dimple being taken as heroine?

Star interview

Kumar Gaurav

With Bunt as pet name in industry and Kumar Gaurav as screen name, Rajendra Kumar's son came with a bang in "Love Story" but ended with a whimper of terrible flops. The teeny bopper hero soon found his lollipop fans doing the vanishing trick. What went wrong? Gaurav himself explains as he looks forward to his next attempt "Jurrat".

Q. How do you analyse the abrupt break-up of your career after a resounding success, which made you a teen idol?

A. Yeah, "Love Story" was great. But the young audience is very fickle and fast. They change their fads every three months or so. My mistake was to sign only moony romantic films. "Teri Kasam", "Lovers", "Romance"... that too with Poonam who is no teenager... flopped and threw me in the dumps. Now I realise that the youth audience likes a fresh romantic pair only once, in their debut. Look at Kamala Hasan — Rati, Dimple — Rishi and even Aamir Khan — Jubi Chawla. After that they want another fresh pair.

Q. So where did you go wrong?

A. May be I should have taken up different roles, and with young new heroines.

Q. How did you still manage to survive?

A. The industry people are very kind. They don't reject you totally. They keep finding new ways for you, like "Gooj".

Q. Was it your father's clout that brought you roles?

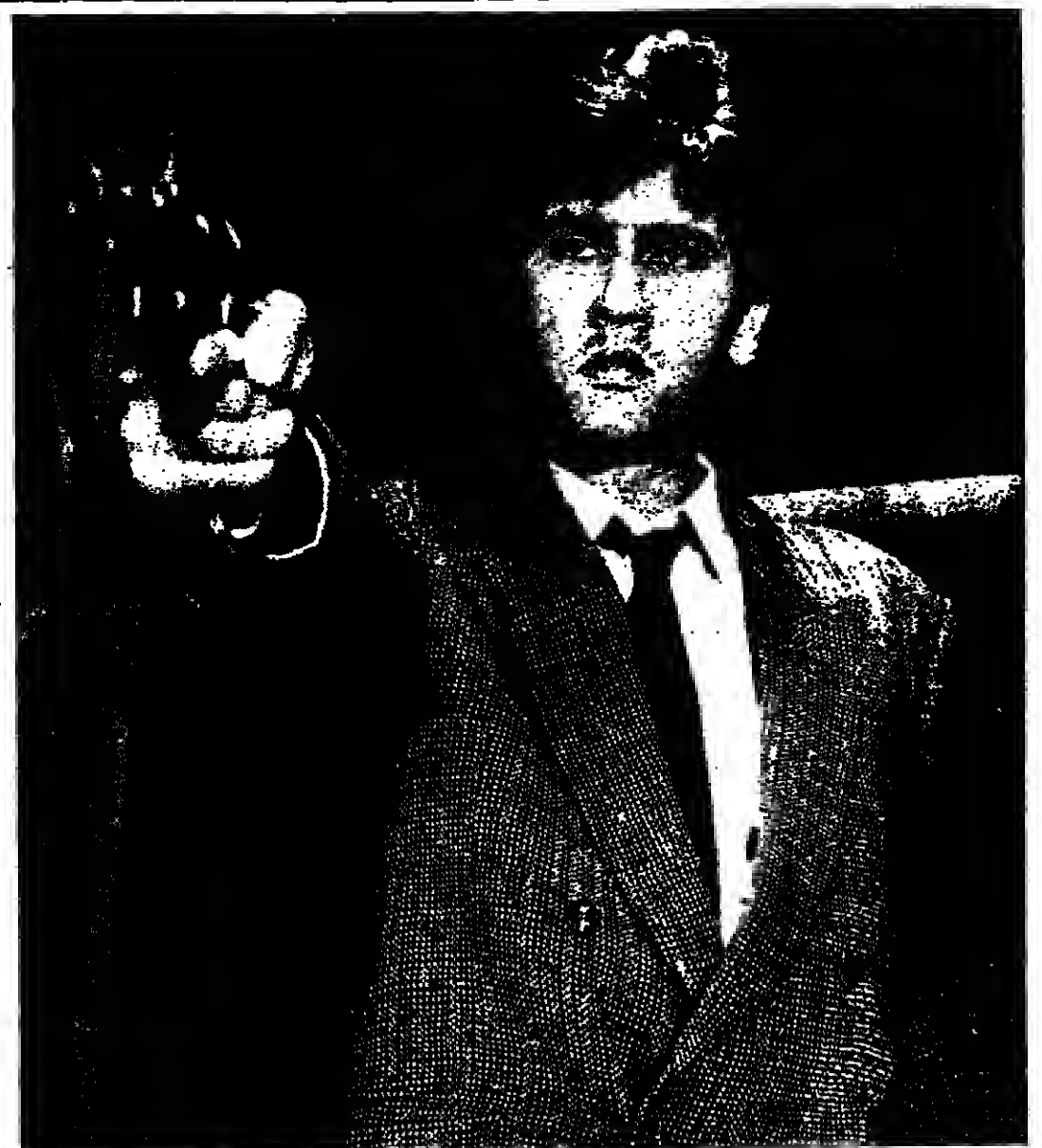
A. Nobody's father can tell any producer to sign anybody for any film.

Q. But your papa is also blamed for wrongly steering your career. Is it true?

A. We had our differences. But as a helpful father he did his best. We have our own family productions and the Mudra people are also very keen to have me. That's how I did films like "Naam" and "Janam".

Q. What about the quarrels with directors which your father had as a producer?

A. It's a question of principles. A director should not get too bossy. But I have no quarrels with Mahesh Bhatt, Rahul Rawail etc. David Dhawan has done an excellent job of "Jurrat" and I am doing a straight young hero's role, in that.



Kumar Gaurav in 'Jurrat'



Jackie Shroff and Sudha Deshpande in 'Angaar'



Vinod Khanna and Amjad Khan in 'Lekin'



The big "A" of 1990 — "Agneepath" with Amitabh and Madhuri

Sri Lanka's beloved elephant is preserved for the nation

By Minoli de Soysa

COLOMBO (Reuters): Raja, the national treasure, has been preserved for posterity.

The magnificently tusked, nine-foot, six inch (three-metre) tall elephant, who died at the age of 66, was Sri Lanka's best-loved animal.

His admirers included former president Junius Jayewardene who provided the 153,000 rupees (\$3,825) needed for the prodigious feat of taxidermy.

To many Sri Lankans, Raja, a half an almost god-like status. Each August for 50 years, beginning in 1937, the richly caparisoned Raja carried a sacred Buddhist relic on his broad back during the annual Kandy Perahera, a festival highlighted by a colourful procession to the Temple of the Tooth.

Sri Lanka's Buddhists, 70 per cent of the island's 17 million people, believe the gold casket that Raja carried through the streets of the ancient hill capital of Kandy contains a tooth relic

of the Buddha.

The task of carrying the relic in the annual procession, a major tourist attraction, is given only to the most special of elephants.

They have to meet strict physical criteria, the proper height and width, have large tusks as well as determination and patience to brave the noisy, hot journey through jostling crowds.

Captured in 1925 when he was just two years old and four feet, five inches (1.3 metres) high, Raja was donated to the temple by a Kandy resident a few years later.

Raja was declared a national treasure by Jayewardene in 1985 and so he had to be preserved after his death.

"In 1988 I was in Kenya and when looking through a book on elephants I saw that an animal named Ahmed had been stuffed and kept in the museum there. I decided this was the answer," said Neranjan Wijeyeratne, cus-

todian of the Temple of the Tooth, which houses the relic and now houses Raja.

The much-photographed Raja had been sick for some time and the decision had been taken that he was too feeble to carry the casket in the 1988 procession.

"I think he knew that, that's why he died," said Wijeyeratne.

Immediate action was vital.

"I knew that if the skin started deteriorating, nothing could be done," said National Museum director Dr Thelma Gunawardana, who along with her team of taxidermists, took on the task of preserving the legendary beast.

Since this was the first time such a procedure had been attempted in Sri Lanka, Gunawardana said she had to resist pressure to bribe foreign experts.

"I was confident we had the expertise to do it," she said. "First we took precise measurements so that he could be reconstructed exactly. Then

COLOMBO (Reuters): Sri Lanka, torn apart by ethnic conflicts, has taken a step towards the integration of its battling Sinhalese and Tamil communities. It will introduce compulsory education in both languages for all the island's children.

Education Minister W.J.M. Lokubandara said children would be taught both Sinhala and Tamil, the languages of the main communities, as well as a link tongue — English.

"This will constitute the first step towards promotion of national integration," Lokubandara said.

he was skinned in one huge sheet. The skin was treated with large amounts of preservatives and brought to Colombo along with the skull and tusks."

Sinhalese account for 74 per cent of the island's 16 million people with Tamils making up 18 per cent and Muslims eight per cent.

After Sri Lanka became independent from Britain in 1948, English remained the language of administration for a decade until Sinhala was made the official language in a move that triggered violent protests from Tamils.

Children were separated into two streams in schools, each taught in their mother tongue, further sharpening the division of the country along ethnic lines.

In Colombo the skin was cured and tanned.

Once the funds were released, the skin was taken back to Kandy where the procedure

Tamils accused the government of discriminating against them in language, employment and land allocation.

In 1975, the leading Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation Front, demanded a separate homeland.

Tamil youths took up the cry and formed militant groups to fight the Sri Lankan army in a campaign to set up an independent state in the northeast, where most Tamils live.

As the Sri Lankan army, made up mainly of Sinhalese, moved to crush the rebellion, the Indian

government bowed to pressure from the 60 million Tamils in its southern states and intervened.

Colombo, pressed by New Delhi, agreed to grant the Tamils powers to run their own affairs in the northeast.

At Colombo's invitation, India sent about 50,000 troops to the island to help enforce the pact and suppress the uprising. They are now being pulled out and about 25,000 remain.

About 10,000 people have died in the bloody ethnic conflict that has racked the palm-fringed island, once a popular tourist destination, for six years.

Sri Lanka has now passed laws devolving power to the northeast provincial council and making both Sinhala and Tamil official languages.

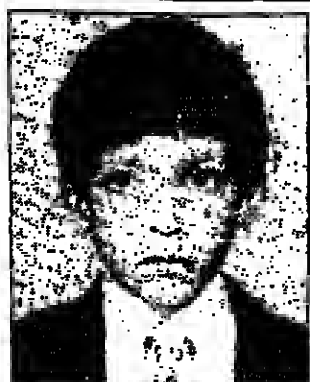
"The teaching of Sinhala and Tamil to all will be the medium through which mutual trust and understanding among different sections of the community will be achieved," Lokubandara said.

Under the proposed scheme, Sinhalese children will be taught the Tamil language during their first six years at school. Tamil children will learn Sinhala for a similar period.

realistic touches like musk at the eyes added.

"To me it is Raja, only thing is that he is not breathing," said a satisfied Wijeyeratne.

Happy birthday



Kamran Ali turned 11 on December 6



Punaki Banerjee turned 9 on December 29



Subodh Kumar turned 13 on December 28



Nazreen turned 7 on December 31



S. Farheen turned 12 on December 30



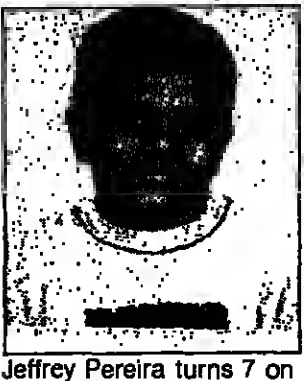
Jamil Joseph Estorninos turned 4 on January 2



Osman Khan turned 13 on January 1



Shaista Mohammed turns 2 today, January 4



Jeffrey Pereira turns 7 on January 5



Aarthi Jayaram turns 7 on January 6



Sachin Rampal turns 6 on January 7



Kingsley Colaso turns 5 on January 6

Things Changing In My Neighborhood



How many things can you find that are changing in your neighborhood?

Materials Needed: this paper, pencil, crayons

Procedure

1. Go for a "change" walk with your class. Take this paper and a pencil with you.
2. Find some things that are changing and draw them in the boxes.
3. Color this page when you get back to class.



Hypothesis
I think I can find _____ things changing in my neighborhood.

Changing size:	Changing color:
Changing shape:	Changing number:
Changing place:	Changing temperature:
Changing every day:	Changing every minute:

Results and Conclusions

1. How many things did you find changing in your neighborhood? _____
2. Is that what you thought you would find? _____
3. What did you learn? _____

Young poet

Dreams

I don't know the meaning
Nor what it is.
Thought I feel it around me.
Above me, behind me.
It always surrounds me.
Why then, is it so far away?
Beyond my reach
My dreams. I hold them tight.
Never to leave them ever
Should these be let go?
How then, should I live
Feel the sweetness of my life
Should I wake up now?
Or dream some more?
Will it be there for me?
To hold me tight
Should I wait.
Take the chances.
Is there the time?
Then, let it not be so.
For my dreams love me more.
And I love them forever.
More than love could love me.
Or her love, love me so.
Let me not wander.
For the wait is long.
But, life so short.
Let me love me.
For I will always be there.
When I need me, want me.
Wait I shall not.
Like breeze flying high, swishing past by.
Love I shall, but, only me.
Until the right love.
Will understand, take my hand.
And love me more than I love myself.
Rajat Kapoor

Variety

Vitamin A intake

Finding the safety threshold

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Tales of vitamin A toxicity are often bizarre, centering on Arctic explorers eating huge amounts of polar bear liver or fitness fanatics gobbling handfuls of vitamin supplements.

But Americans should be aware that more subtle overloads of vitamin A might pose some serious health risks, particularly to pregnant women, children and the elderly, federal nutrition experts say.

The ideal vitamin A intake for the average man is about 3,100 to 3,300 international units (IU) daily, according to the National Research Council's 1989 edition of the recommended dietary allowances (RDAs).

But Dr. John Hatchcock of the Food and Drug Administration estimates 3 per cent to 4 per cent of the US population take vitamin supplements containing 25,000 IU or more of vitamin A per day.

"That's a heck of a lot of people. If even 1 per cent of the population are taking potentially toxic doses, that's too high," said Hatchcock, adding the FDA is still trying to determine at what level the vitamin meets the government's "generally recognized as safe" standard.

So far, vitamin A toxicity — which may include bone abnormalities and life-threatening liver damage — has only been conclusively shown in adults who consistently consume more than 50,000 IU daily of vitamin A and young children who take more than 20,000 IU daily.

But Hatchcock said a growing body of research indicates the vitamin A safety threshold may be far lower for certain high-risk groups.

"The question is not the upper limits, but rather how little can possibly cause problems," the nutrition expert told a recent seminar.

Vitamin A is a group of compounds essential to vision, cell growth and immune function.

In nutritional supplements, vitamin A generally refers to retinol, also known as "pre-formed vitamin A." Food sources of pre-formed vitamin A are primarily limited to liver and fish liver oils, and it is rare for toxicity to stem from diet alone, Hatchcock said.

The body can also convert precursors called carotenoids into vitamin A. Carotenoids, which are found in carrots, spinach and many other vegetables, are absorbed through the intestine far less efficiently than retinoids. But they are not known to be toxic even when taken in large doses over long periods of time.

Much of the worry over vitamin A's safety arose in the mid-80's after it became evident that the anti-acne drug accutane, which is a powerful analog of retinol, caused birth defects if taken during the early weeks of pregnancy.

Hatchcock said evidence is now "close to compelling" that daily vitamin A consumption exceeding 100,000 IU by pregnant women can cause miscarriages and birth defects, mainly of the face and skull, in their fetuses.

For daily intakes between 20,000 and 100,000 IU, Hatchcock said "modest evidence" for vitamin A-related birth defects exists. The FDA researcher said in his opinion, problems likely arise "in the 25,000 IU bracket, maybe as low as 20,000 IU."

There currently is no persuasive evidence to link birth defects to daily consumption below 20,000 IU, Hatchcock said.

The FDA researcher advised pregnant women to take low to moderate-potency vitamin supplements with vitamin A levels in the 4,000 to 5,000 IU range. And he warned that it would be "imprudent" to take formulas that contain several times the RDA of vitamin A.

The vitamin A supplements most commonly on the market range in potency from 2,500 to 20,000 IU, but there are some 25,000 IU products on the market, according to the Council for Responsible Nutrition, a trade group for the supplement industry.

The council recommends supplements formulated for use by pregnant women contain no more than 8,000 IU of vitamin A per day. In addition, any women who could become pregnant should not take more than 10,000 IU per day, except on the advice of a doctor, the group said.

Another recent study indicated the elderly may also be at increased risk for lower level vitamin A toxicity, perhaps experiencing problems from long-term use in the 5,000 to 10,000 IU per day range, Hatchcock said.

But the FDA official cautioned the liver damage found in the older people may not be a direct result of vitamin A overload. He said vitamin A may be just unmasking "silent," pre-existing liver damage, such as that caused by viral hepatitis. Other factors, including alcohol and the antibiotic tetracycline, may also impair the body's ability to handle vitamin A, he said.



McCartney in concert

Ex-Beatle rock star Paul McCartney performs during the opening concert of his world tour at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre Jan 2. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shedding pristine image

Singapore luring in tourists

SINGAPORE, (Reuters): Singapore attracts more and more tourists each year but is having to spend money to slow a decline in market share caused by its pristine image.

"We expect the tourist inflow will grow annually at an average eight to 10 per cent over the next three years," says Evelyn Sen, marketing director of the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board.

The number of visitors has been increasing steadily, with 4.18 million visitors arriving in 1988, 14 per cent more than in 1987. The number of tourists for 1989 is estimated at 4.8 million.

However, the tourist board is concerned because Singapore now gets just 10 per cent of total visitors to the Far East against 17 per cent 14 years ago. Most visitors head for Thailand, Hong Kong and Malaysia for entertainment and fun, tour operators say.

"The impression, particularly in Western cities, that Singapore is just another clinical, modern and business city needs to be corrected," Sen said.

"We want to project Singapore's multiracial people... various cultural and food festivals and varying lifestyles... (as) part of an Asian tradition," she said.

As part of this effort, Singapore has earmarked 30 million dollars \$15 million for festivities to continue for months as part of its 25th anniversary of independence.

The show includes a cultural month designated for each of the

island's three major communities — Chinese, Malay and Indian — and will feature fireworks, music, sports and an arts festival.

The tourist board and businessmen plan to invest close to three billion dollars (\$1.5 billion) in the coming years to build entertainment and leisure complexes, officials say.

Quaint shops in Chinatown exuding oriental charm, and the 102-year-old Raffles hotel, which gave the world the Singapore sling cocktail, are being renovated to disprove that Singapore is only a modern city.

"We hope to offer the visitor a different and interesting holiday experience by 1992," Sen said.

Tourism is vital to Singapore's economy. An average five billion dollars (\$2.5 billion) a year makes up about 10 per cent of the country's gross national product.

Bugis Street, famous for its transvestites until it was demolished in 1985, is being re-created, the city's only major night spot under the open sky.

Offshore Sentosa island, to which visitors are taken by boats or cable cars to a butterfly park or a war museum, is being turned into a livelier setting, with three hotels overlooking a white beach and the sea.

Said Alan Choe, chairman of the Sentosa Development Corporation: "The hotels are part of the corporation's effort to encourage tourists to stay longer at the island resort."

Sixty old warehouses and shops alongside the promenade of the Singapore River are being

converted into cafes, hawkers centres and taverns.

The 130 million dollar (\$65 million) project undertaken by a local bank will allow customers to order meals by the riverside as they watch misty skyscrapers housing banks and the stock exchange across the river.

Haw Par Villa, also called Tiger Balm Gardens, closed for renovation since July 1988, will be reopened in the middle of 1990 with statues and tableaux from the 15th-century Chinese Ming dynasty.

Chinese junks will ferry visitors about a lake to encounter electronically operated animated spirits and dragons associated with Chinese mythologies.

A highlight at the botanic gardens, now getting a 50 million dollar (\$25 million) facelift, is a 20 metre (60 foot), pyramid-shaped glass greenhouse for plants.

But tour operators say rising hotel rents could dampen Singapore's long-standing attraction as a cheap destination.

Five-star hotel rooms cost 30 per cent more than they did in 1988 and the price is likely to go up. Expansion of the hotel industry has trailed the tourist boom.

There will be a shortage of 1,000 rooms by 1992 although eight more hotels will be built by then, they said.

Many developers are reluctant to open more rooms because they fear a repetition of the 1985 recession. At the height of the recession, occupancy rates dropped to 65 per cent as growth in hotel rooms outstripped tourist arrivals.

Britons opting for secular funerals with the personal touch

LONDON, (Reuters): When a veteran soccer player wanted to be cremated in a spherical coffin shaped like a football, it was all in a day's work for Maevy Denby.

She has also organised funerals where members of the congregation danced the tango or performed a circus juggling routine.

Denby specialises in conducting non-religious funerals with the personal touch and says more and more Britons are demanding such ceremonies.

She pointed to a pile of 50 or 60 letters that had arrived that morning at the London offices of the British Humanist Association (BHA), saying people wanted a change from

the often "impersonal" services provided by churches.

"Every life is as unique as a fingerprint," she said in an interview. "Generalised words won't do."

The number of non-religious funerals in Britain has jumped from only 600 two years ago to more than 5,000 in 1989.

Denby, 48, who is the BHA's national co-ordinator, has conducted more than 700 funerals herself in the past seven or eight years.

The number of "officiants" who conduct secular ceremonies for the BHA has doubled to more than 150 in recent months and Denby is planning to open the association's first

office outside London, in the southern city of Salisbury.

The association has also produced a 60-page guide for people who want to arrange non-religious funerals for friends or relatives — or, in advance, for themselves.

Apart from committed non-believers, demand for non-religious funerals is coming from people keen to escape from routine church services carried out by clergymen who have never met the deceased.

"People don't want to be forced into a service that is meaningless for the person who has died," Denby said. "The point is that people have a choice."

There is no end to people's ingenuity in devising services to match the quirks and peculiarities of the dead.

The soccer-player in his football-shaped coffin was sent to his last resting place with a eulogy to his triumphs on the pitch specially composed by Denby.

A circus performer's last rites were interrupted for a few minutes by his sons, who juggled solemnly in front of the coffin before it was rolled into a crematorium's furnace.

The family of a young girl who died in a car crash played the music of the pop star Madonna at her funeral while others have

gone to meet their maker to Scott Joplin's ragtime piano.

At the funeral of a noted ballroom dancer two years ago, the mourners performed a tango inside the crematorium and then waltzed out of the door.

"It's not all doom and gloom," said Denby, although she concedes that this funeral did not go down very well with the crematorium staff.

At another funeral, the undertaker told her the night before that the body had begun to decay and should be cremated at once. This was done and at the ceremony the next day, a

coffin filled with metal weight was consigned to the flames.

"Never in the history of mankind has a metal weight had such a solemn end," Denby recalled.

Her first funeral was probably one of the most memorable. It was interrupted by a power cut just as the coffin was sliding through the curtains into the furnace, but when the power was restored, the coffin suddenly reappeared.

"That was awful — my very first one," she said. "The coffin slid backwards and forwards."

JUNIOR TIMES

Dear Juniorreaders,

To criticize means to pass a judgement, or find fault with a certain thing. During school you are often criticized about your homework (if it is not up to your normal standard, or bad).

You are also taught how to criticize both academically and in everyday life. How many times has a teacher asked you "Now what may be wrong with this sentence? Does it make sense? If not, why?" You answer is a judgement, a criticism.

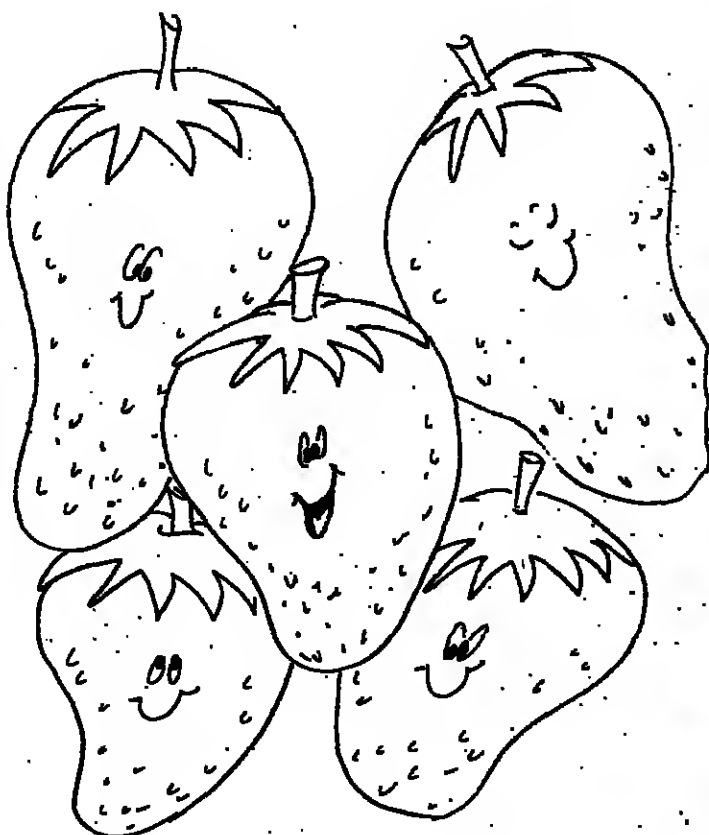
Criticism is an art: the art of judging. It should be handled with care.

If you have a point to bring up, you must have logical reasoning to prove it. An example of such is Amina Raza's letter to KTV last week. She criticized the types of programmes offered to young viewers on KTV and called for less violent programmes which help school students relax after a hard day. She underlined her points sensibly and I am sure her letter was taken into consideration.

However, if you are not sure of the points you want to bring up, do not bother. Never criticize something you are unable to prove, or something that is too insignificant to comment on. This will make you look foolish and your point will be entirely ignored.

Manal

Colour Timing



Strawberries

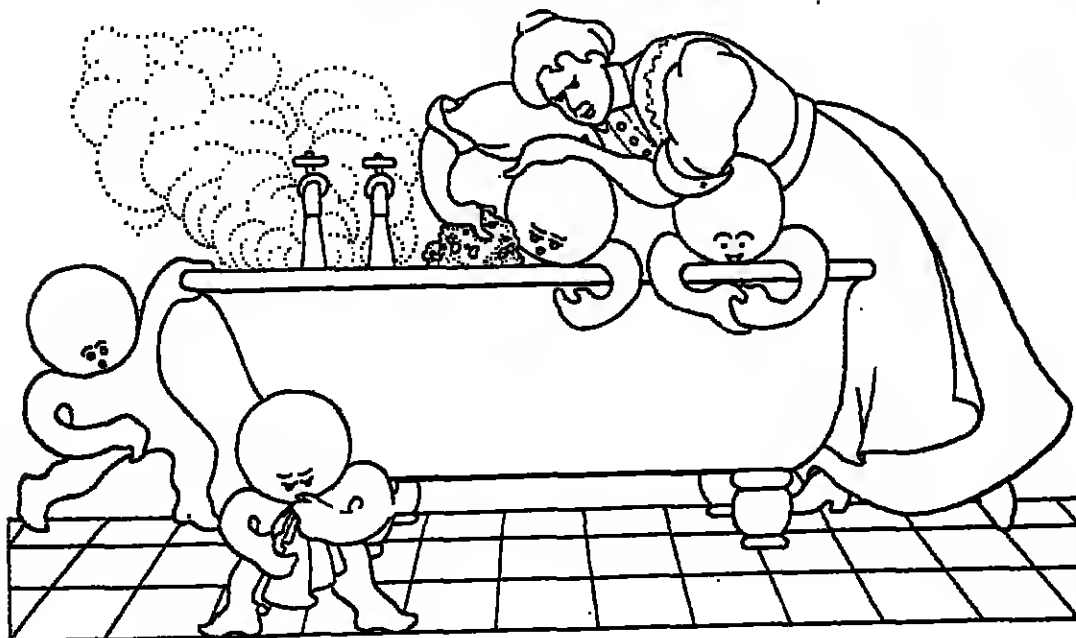
Word search

SELECTED SINGERS

ANKA (Paul)
BENNETT (Tony)
BOONE (Pat)
CHARLES (Ray)
COMO (Perry)
CROSBY (Bing)
DAMONE (Vic)
FISHER (Eddie)
GAYE (Marvin)
GIBB (Andy)
GRANT (Gogi)
KALLEN (Kitty)
LAINE (Frankie)
LANZA (Mario)
PAGE (Patti)
PRESLEY (Elvis)
REEVES (Jim)
SINATRA (Frank)
STAFFORD (Jo)
STARR (Kay)
VALLI (Frankie)
VINTON (Bobby)

A D V O R A V A L L I C M
S T A F F O R D A M O N E
B B I G E T L E E Y A G N
F K E G A P O N E L L A K
B O O N E E Q L S V R P T
O B I J N T S K R E E Y T
A S T I U E D Z H V R S O
G E A R R A T S E I T X C
L L R P T A I T W N H O R
Q R I F V F T F A T M I O
S A N I B T C R J O G K S
W H I T I N G A K N A R B
G C H B A Z N A L Y N N Y

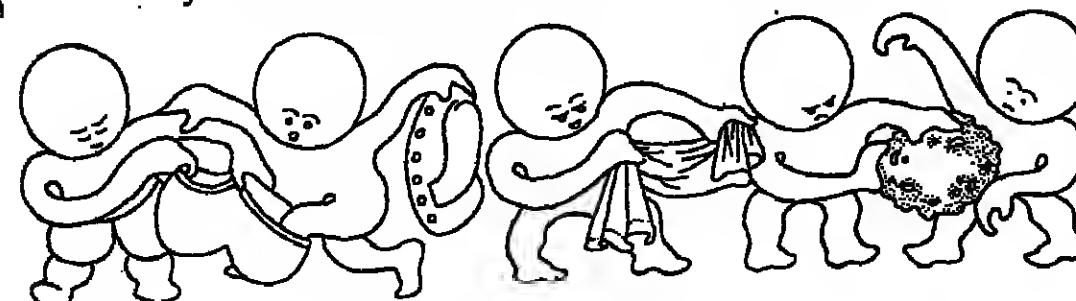
The Goops again



CLEANLINESS

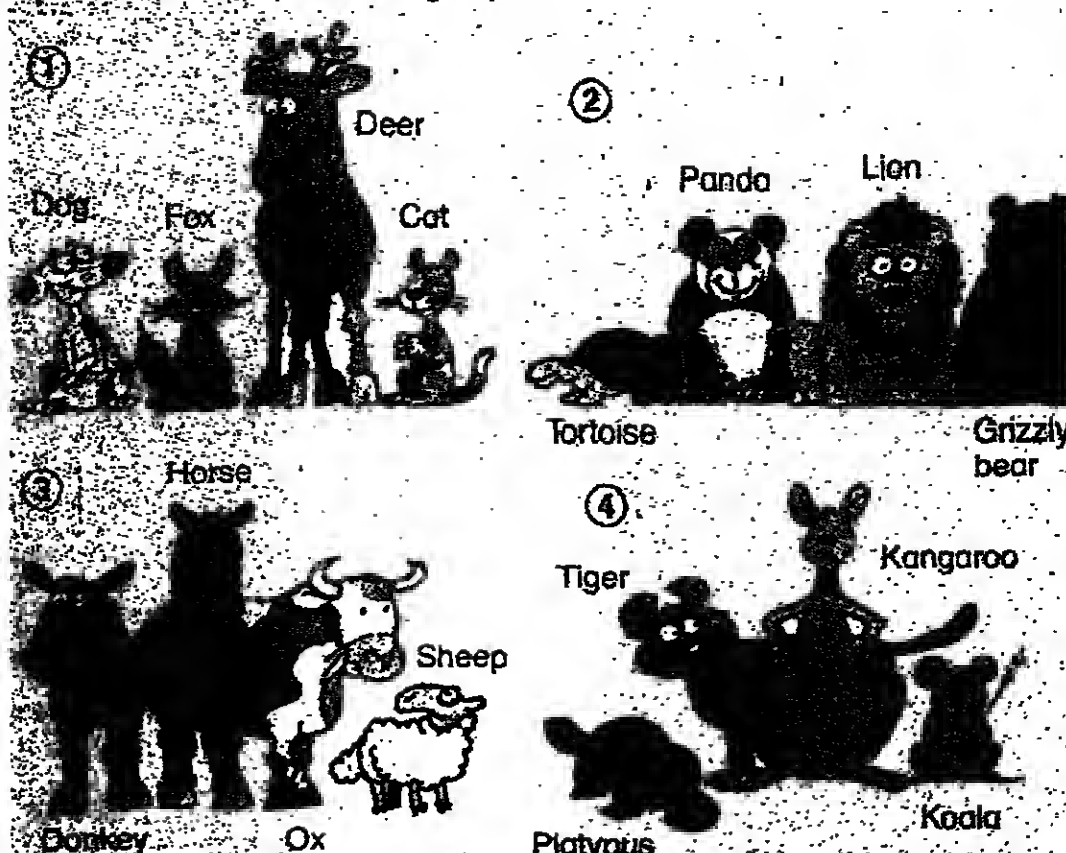
THE Goops they are spotted on chin and on cheek,
You could dig the dirt off with a trowel!
But *you* wash your face twenty times every week,
And you don't do it *all* with the towel!

The Goops are all dirty, and what do they do?
They like to be dirty, and stay so.
But if *you* were dirty, you'd wash, would n't you?
If you needed a bath, you would say so!



Odd animal out

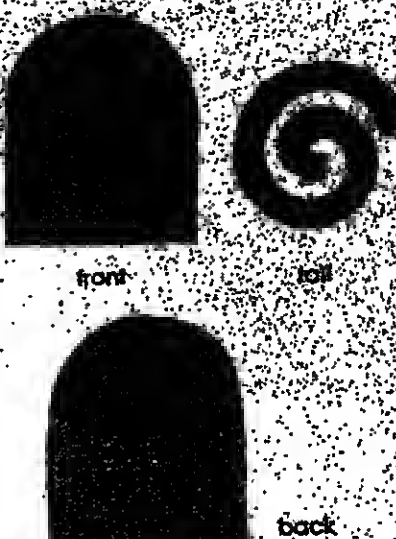
Spot the odd one out in each group.



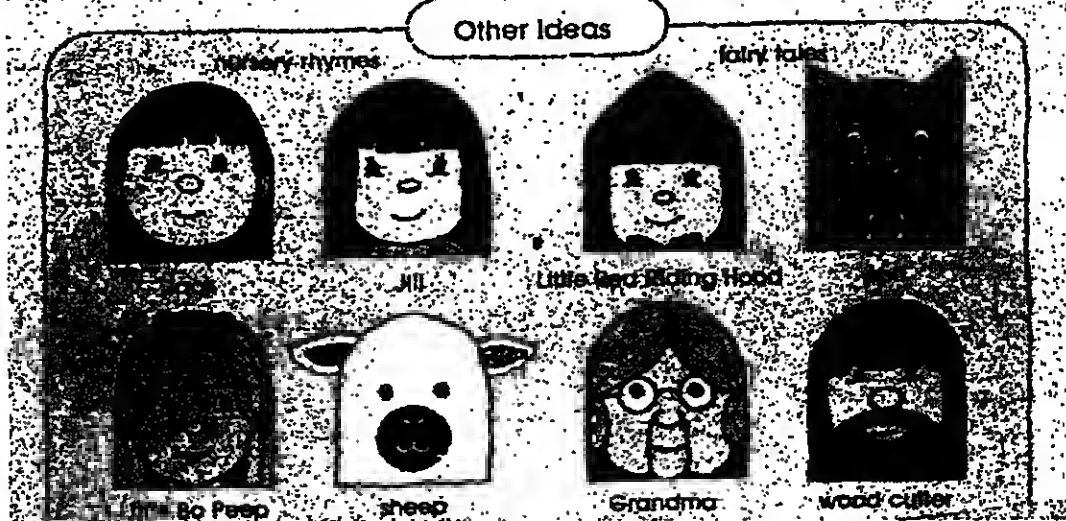
Finger puppets

Make the puppets from stiff paper, card or foil. You could trace the templates below.

Draw or stick on features and a curly tail for the pigs.



This little piggy went to market.
This little piggy stayed at home.
This little piggy had roast beef
and this little piggy had none.
And this little piggy
cried wee-wee-wee
all the way home!



What is wrong in this picture?



The Hob Nobs

By Julie Hodgson



THE Hob Nob family were a funny lot. They were family of little people, no bigger than your thumb, they lived in an old shoe, which was made from soft leather.

Mummy Hob Nob was always cooking nettle soup, Daddy Hob Nob was always collecting nettles, for the soup of course. Nina Hob Nob had a short stubby nose and was always talking in rhyme, her little brother Nigel Hob Nob, was too young to do anything other than dribble. At least that's what Nina thought.

One afternoon, when Daddy Hob Nob came back from collecting nettles, Nina Hob Nob, said, "Daddy can I go and play — if I don't go too far away?"

"Off you pop, then — be good," said her Daddy.

So Nina Hob Nob went out looking for adventure. Nina skipped around the nettles, and hoped over the tiny weeds, then played hop scotch on the tiny pebbles along the path.

She had decided that she would go looking for treasure, so she got a small leaf and made it into a bag. She found all sorts which the big people had left behind, she found a big safety pin, and an earring which was very big indeed.

"Oh boy what fun, I'll take this home to mum," she laughed to herself and skipped off down nettle path and headed for home.

Just then she heard a strange cry, it was coming from underneath a nettle. Being a little cautious she went over to the 'noise' she gently pulled the nettle back, and there lying on the ground was a funny old man, with his leg in a funny position.

"Whatever have you done?" said a surprised Nina.

"Well, I was chasing

butterflies, and I slipped and fell, and my leg hurts" wailed the funny old man.

Well Nina told the old man that she would rush home and get her daddy to help, and some of her mummy's nettle soup, for the pain.

She ran as fast as she could, with her bag of treasures tightly in her hand. She found her daddy cleaning the outside of the shoe.

She told him what had happened and ran in to the shoe to tell her mummy what had happened and to get some nettle soup.

By the time Nina had got back to the old man, her father was already putting on a splint, to hold his leg in place, so they could get him to the doctor who lived not too far away, luckily for the old man.

Doctor Dihbs said that the bone was not broken, just a sprain.

They watched the two men unload the big old clock and bring it into the house, and put it back in the correct place. The two mice jumped up and down with excitement.

"Not long now, and we'll have our home back" said Cheese.

"I think every one has left from the hall now, so we can go in" said Crackers.

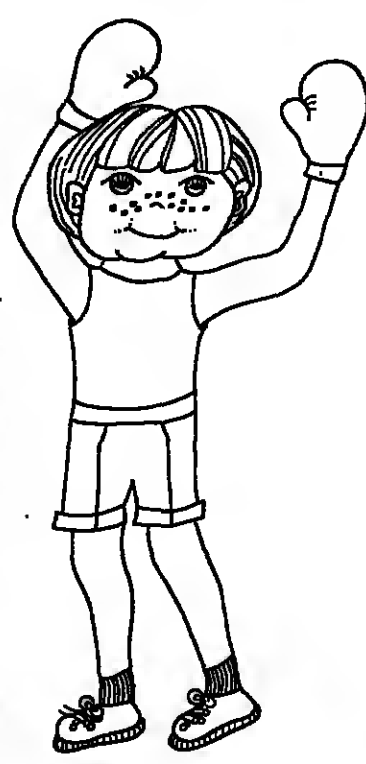
After they checked the coast was clear, they thanked the floor board family and set off to 'their' clock.

It was so nice to be home again, and most important, they could hear the beautiful sound of the clock going Tick Tock.

Boxing Through Subtraction

Circle the right answer.

- 14 - 4 = 10 11
- 12 - 2 = 10 11
- 17 - 8 = 9 10
- 16 - 9 = 7 8
- 15 - 7 = 7 6
- 14 - 6 = 8 7
- 12 - 5 = 6 7
- 13 - 8 = 5 6
- 15 - 9 = 5 6
- 17 - 9 = 6 9
- 18 - 9 = 6 9
- 12 - 5 = 7 8
- 11 - 4 = 7 6
- 13 - 3 = 9 10
- 15 - 5 = 9 10
- 14 - 9 = 5 6
- 13 - 7 = 5 8
- 16 - 6 = 8 9



Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Hobbies: _____
Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

MARKETPLACE

ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

هكذا في الأصل

Chesnokov overcomes Hogstedt

Jonsson stretches Sanchez



Sanchez: made to fight for win

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Jan 3, (AP): Top seeds Emilio Sanchez and Andrei Chesnokov encountered stiff Swedish opposition today, but both advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$150,000 BP Nationals Tennis Championship.

Sanchez of Spain defeated Lars Jonsson 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, while second-seeded Chesnokov of the Soviet Union struggled past another Swede, Thomas Hogstedt, 7-6, 7-6.

Fifth seed Paolo Cane of Italy and eighth seeded Richey Renberg of the United States also advanced with second round wins in the 32-draw event, first on the New Association of Tennis Professionals Tour.

Cane downed New Zealander Bruce Derlin 6-4, 7-6, while Renberg beat yet another Swede, Christian Bergstrom 6-4, 6-3.

Promising young Australian Richard Fromberg scored the only upset on the third day, ousting seventh-seeded Paul Chamberlin 6-3, 6-4 of the United States.

Also advancing were Gilad Bloom of Israel, Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia and first round giant-killer Lars Wahlgren, the only Swedish survivor.

Wahlgren, who beat defending champion Kelly Evernden of New Zealand in the first round,

bested Jeremy Bates of Britain 6-4, 6-7, 6-3.

Bloom beat Veli Paloheimo of Finland 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in a protracted struggle, while Novacek ousted Swedish-born Australian Johan Anderson 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

Only two quarterfinal matches are scheduled for tomorrow. Chesnokov will play Renberg in the centre court opener with Novacek then facing Wahlgren. Matches pitting Sanchez against Fromberg and Bloom against Cane are to be played Friday.

The tournament continues through Sunday.

And in Brisbane, second-seeded Jana Novotna breezed into the quarterfinals of the \$150,000 Danone Queensland Open today with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Australian Michelle Jagard.

The powerful Czechoslovak player, currently ranked 11th in the world, is aiming for a top five spot by the end of the year.

"I'm not totally happy with the way I'm playing, I still lack a little consistency, but I'm feeling really fit," Novotna said. "I'm being coached by Betty Stove and Mike Estep and hitting with Hana Mandlikova as part of a team and I'm feeling the benefits."

Novotna was joined in the last eight of the 56-draw tournament

by unseeded Japanese teenager Kimiko Date.

Date, 19, upset her second seed of the event by beating 15th seeded American Terry Phelps 6-1, 6-2. She downed fourth seeded Ros Fairbank in the second round yesterday.

Three seeded players — 10th seeded Judith Wiesner of Austria, 14th seeded Isabelle Demongeot of France and 16th seeded Kathy Rinaldi of the United States — scored second round wins.

But 12th seeded Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia was eliminated by Australian teenager Kristin Godridge.

Godridge, 16, outlasted Rajchrtova 4-6, 6-2, 6-0 in sweltering conditions.

Demongeot defeated Australian Renae Stuhls 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, while Rinaldi battled past Maya Kidowaki of Japan 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. Wiesner ousted American Carrie Cunningham 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

Big-serving Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands also progressed to the third round with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 win over Australian Kristine Radford, a late replacement for third seeded Belinda Cordwell of New Zealand, who withdrew with an ankle injury.

Top-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia was inactive today.



Becker: seeking No. 1 spot

Players slam Open surface

Becker confident

SYDNEY, Jan 3, (Reuters): The artificial rubberised court surface used for the Australian Open came under fire today from players worried they could be fried alive if a heatwave hits the National Tennis Centre later this month.

John Fitzgerald said conditions at the Australian Hardcourt Championships, played on the same rebound ace surface used at the Open, were life-threatening because of temperatures of around 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

"If it rained, we'd come off. Yet we go and play in those conditions," the Australian said after his first round victory over Belgian qualifier Xavier Daufresne.

"What if a guy died out there? Some of the guys were talking in the locker room and said officials should make an urgent review of conditions," he told journalists.

The court surface reached 60 degrees Celsius (140 Fahrenheit) in Adelaide, causing five ball girls and boys to faint.

The bowl-like centre court at the National Tennis Centre, which hosts the Open from January 15 to 28, can become unbearably hot in bright sun which reflects off the surface and the concrete surrounds.

Last year world number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia was close to collapse after a marathon semifinal played in hot sun on centre court against Austrian Thomas Muster.

Sweden's Mats Wilander was one of many players who suggested the roof on the centre court should be closed if conditions became dangerously hot, an idea which organisers Tennis Australia are now considering.

At present the roof is only closed to keep out the rain.

Tennis Australia president Geoff Pollard told journalists the retractable roof could be closed during the final four days of the Open when the men's and women's singles semifinals and finals would be played.

"We can't do it any earlier because there will be matches taking place on outside courts as well and it would not be fair," Pollard said.

"As far as I am aware rebound ace is no hotter than other hardcourt surfaces. Naturally we want to ensure the players are not hurt by excessive heat and there are plenty of medical staff who will be on stand-by."

The complaints against the rebound ace surface comes just days after John McEnroe repeated the frequent complaint that the Open's timing is soon after the Christmas break will continue to hit its standing as a Grand Slam tournament.

"The Open is not anywhere near the standard of the other three Grand Slam events... a lot of top ranked players don't want to come," the American said in Perth after the Hopman Cup mixed team tennis tournament.

"It is just so difficult to come back to tennis at a top level after Christmas."

Eight of the world's top 20 men players are by-passing the Open but Lendl, world number two Boris Becker of West Germany, third-ranked Stefan Edberg of Sweden and McEnroe, ranked fourth, will be competing.

Becker braved the midday sun today, taking to the practice court just 12 hours after jetting into Australia from Europe to begin preparing for the Open.

Becker will play in the New South Wales Open at White City from Monday to prepare for the Open.

Becker last month led West Germany to victory over Sweden in the Davis Cup final and said he was feeling confident about 1990.

"I don't know what is going to happen in the future, but my aim is to win as many matches as possible," the West German said today when asked about the possibility of taking the world No. 1 ranking from Lendl.

"If I play well then we will see. Right now I feel good, although it is very hot today," Becker said.

Temperatures soared but that didn't stop coach Bob Brett from giving Becker a vigorous workout.

"It will take a couple of days to get adjusted to the conditions and the courts, so for me the Sydney tournament is a good preparation," Becker said.

NFL ROUNDUP

Steelers confident of beating Broncos

PITTSBURGH, Jan 3, (AP): As they prepare for Sunday's American Conference playoff game in Denver — an amazing development in its own right — don't remind the Pittsburgh Steelers that the Broncos beat them 34-7 on Nov 5.

The Steelers' attitude is "We're not going to let that happen again."

"The game seems so long ago," their 4-6 record at the time seems just so much ancient history, that the Steelers can hardly believe they're the same team. And they're not, running back Tim Worley said.

"We're a whole different team than we were two months ago," Worley said yesterday. "Look at us now and look at us back then. We couldn't beat anybody back then. But we're confident now and we're all playing together. We're on a roll."

Yeah, just look at them now. The same team that was ousted 92-10 in its first two games is on its first four-game winning streak since 1983, has won six of its last seven, and, quarterback Bobby Brister said, "We'll play anybody anywhere right now."

Even at Houston, where they upset the Oilers 26-23 in overtime in the AFC wild-card playoff game Sunday after losing their earlier 27-0. Even at Denver, where they haven't played since upsetting the Broncos 24-17 in a 1984 playoff game.

"We're playing our best ball now... just when you need to be playing your best ball," fullback Merrill Hoge said.

The fact that they're eight-point underdogs for the second consecutive week hardly matters to the Steelers because, as Brister said: "We probably won't get any respect until we go to the Super Bowl."

"We've been underdogs all year and nobody expected us to do anything, so that's good," Brister said. "We're pretty confident, and it doesn't make any difference who we play or where we play."

For the second week in a row, the Steelers have momentum in their favour. Houston was on a downer before playing Pittsburgh, having lost two in a row. Denver (11-5) has lost three of four, although Steelers coach Chuck Noll downplays that because the Broncos clinched the AFC West title three weeks ago.

"After you clinch, that takes the edge off your game," Noll said. "You can't put too much confidence in that. These are the playoffs."

You don't have to remind the Steelers of that, since three-quarters of their roster had no playoff experience, and cornerback Dwayne Woodruff is the last surviving veteran from their 1990 Super Bowl championship team.

"After we won that playoff game (in Houston), we were on cloud nine," Tackle Tunch Ilkin said. "Once you're in the playoffs, things can happen, because there's a hop, skip and a jump to the Super Bowl. We're confident we've overcome a great deal of adversity. We have a great feeling right now."

Lewis-Johnson race being planned

RALEIGH, N.C., Jan 3, (Reuters): Carl Lewis' business manager said yesterday he was discussing the possibility with at least six groups of a multi-million-dollar race in September between the two-time US Olympic and disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson.

"The lowest offer — and the latest round — has been \$1 million for Carl and the highest has been \$6 million," Joe Douglas, Lewis' business agent, told Reuters by telephone from California. "But I don't know how substantial any of the offers are."

Three of the groups are from the United States, two from Spain and one from the Netherlands, he said. The race could gross more than \$10 million, Douglas said he had been told.

"It would be the event of the year," he said.

The rematch probably would take place a few days after Johnson regains his eligibility on September 25, Douglas said.

Johnson, who was suspended for two years by the

International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) after testing positive for steroids at the 1988 race. He also was stripped of his gold medal and will lose the 100 metres world record, which he set in 1987, to Lewis later this month because of admitted drug use.

Lewis won four gold medals in the 1984 Olympics and successfully defended his titles in the 100 metres and long jump at the 1988 Games.

Talks continue over where the race will be held, Douglas said.

"As far as viewing the race (on television) in the States, Japan would be a good market and North America would be a good place," he said. "I don't know if the Johnson people would want it in America, but I would. Europe would be my third choice. But you go where the best situation is. Wherever they have it in mind, so long as it is prominent."

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Johnson, who was suspended for two years by the

Montana named NFL MVP

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 3, (AP): Quarterback Joe Montana, who had the best all-round passing year in League history in 1989, added a new honour yesterday when he was named NFL Most Valuable Player by the Associated Press.

Three years after undergoing major back surgery and a year after his starting job was put up for grabs by Bill Walsh, Montana at age 33 guided the San Francisco 49ers to four fourth-quarter comeback wins and the League's best record (14-2). He had a sixth season of 3,000-plus passing yards, tying Dan Fouts' League record, and at one point threw 150 passes without an interception.

Montana, completing a near-record 70.2 per cent of his passes for 26 touchdowns and a career-low eight interceptions, also was an easy winner of the AP's Offensive Player of the Year award.

In balloting by a national media panel, Montana received 62 votes for MVP. Green Bay quarterback Don Majkowski was a distant second with 6. The only other vote-getter was defensive tackle Keith Millard of Minnesota with 2.

Montana, the all-time NFL in quarterback rating

(94.0) and completion percentage (63.9 per cent), is a two-time Super Bowl MVP and was an overwhelming choice this fall as AP pro football Player of the Decade. But despite six selections to the pro bowl, five as the NFC starter, and a previous NFL passing title in 1987, he had never been the League MVP.

"It's a great honour," Montana said at the 49ers' training camp in Santa Clara, where the team is preparing for Saturday's home playoff game with Minnesota. "There were a lot of players around the league who had good seasons, and to be singled out is rewarding."

The 49ers, who led the League in total offense in 1987 and 1989 and were second last season, have had a monopoly on offensive Players of the Year honours for three years. Jerry Rice was MVP and offensive player in 1987 and Roger Craig was selected for the offensive award last season.

"A lot of the credit for my success goes to my teammates. Jerry, John Taylor and Roger and the line all had great years as well as the entire offense, which made my job a lot easier," Montana said. "Without them I would not have been able to have the type of season that I'm having."

Coghlan set to return

RALEIGH, N.C., Jan 3, (Reuters): Eamon Coghlan, the world indoor mile record holder, is expected to announce his return to competitive indoor running after a two-year layoff.

Coghlan, a 37-year-old Irishman who lives in the United States, retired in late 1988 from all athletics except road racing after an automobile accident in which he broke his leg.

But after clocking eight minutes, 53.15 seconds for two miles and 3:54.63 for 1.500 metres in a low-key meeting last weekend, Coghlan decided to race on the North American indoor circuit this season and was to announce his return at a news conference today, a source closely involved with the indoor circuit said.

Coghlan set the world indoor mile record of 3:49.78 seconds at East Rutherford, New Jersey, on February 27, 1983.

Evergreen thrash CCK to reach semifinals

Capri, New Pak and Unity score contrasting wins

EVERGREEN started 1990 on a winning note as they crushed CCK in the Patron's Trophy quarterfinal by eight wickets at EPI ground on New Year's Day.

Evergreen skipper Asad Baig won the toss and opted to field. CCK were restricted to 133 in the allotted 29 overs and they lost six wickets in the process. Suhail 41 and Zaheer 35 not out were top scorers for CCK while Suhail Asad bagged two wickets for Evergreen.

Qayyum, Shehzad and Jamil were also among the wickets with a piece each. Evergreen opened their innings through Pervaz and Qayyum but the former was bowled by Saif-ud-din after scoring 12 runs. After his departure, Suhail Asad took over the run chase and used the long-handle to crack 64 quick runs. His rapid innings was studded with two towering sixes and seven magnificent boundaries.

At the other end, Qayyum who preferred to play second fiddle to his more swashbuckling partner was out just at the verge of victory after contributing a disciplined 41 when he was caught off Suhail's bowling. Jamil and Suhail saw no further damage was done and surpassed CCK's total in just 18 overs.

Evergreen will meet Lanka Colts in the semifinal on Friday.

Evergreen did not have the same luck three days earlier when a superb knock of 90 runs by Adnan Mirza helped Capri C.C. beat them by three wickets, in semifinal of the Perelli Cricket Trophy at NC



Suhail Asad



Adnan Mirza



Babar



Abuzahr



Mubashir

Ground on Friday.

Evergreen won the toss and opted to bat first through Dawood and Inam, but were soon in trouble when the latter was bowled by Nasser in early overs.

Sobail couldn't last long and was brilliantly caught by Ibrar, deep in the field off Sarfraz. This brought the captain, Razzaq, who with Dawood steadied the innings and accelerated the run-rate until both were out for 61 and 64 runs, respectively.

Qamar and Jameel remained not out with 14 and 15 runs. Evergreen posted a big total of 194 runs in 27 overs for the loss of 5 wickets. For Capri, Nasser and Sarfraz shared two wickets each while Irfan chipped in with one.

Chasing an average of more than seven runs per over, Adnan and Naveed played steadily and maintained the required run-rate

when the latter was out for 19 well played runs. Bittu and Sajid both went cheaply, but Adnan kept his courage and patience and stroked freely all over the ground almost at will during the match-winning partnership with Irfan.

Both the batsmen hammered the Evergreen bowlers, especially Dawood who was struck for 50 runs in 5 overs, and demonstrated an excellent skill of running between the wickets.

Irfan was finally out for a stylish 27. Sarfraz was out first ball and Khalid was run out, but once again it was Adnan who didn't give up and kept on scoring with Abid, and when Adnan was run out for a heroic 90 studded with five fours and one six, it was all over for Evergreen.

Abid and Jayantil remained not out with 10 and 3 runs, respectively. Capri scored 178 runs at the

end of 25th over and won the match on better average.

New Pak Cricket Club scored a one-wicket victory over Lions Cricket Club in a Honda Trophy match at the Salmiyah Ground on Friday.

Lions, batting first, ran into some accurate bowling from New Pak and struggled to make the runs all through their innings but still managed to maintain a run-rate of over six runs per over. They scored 152 in their 25 allotted overs.

Mubashir and Pervaz opened the innings for New Pak and put on 90 runs for the first wicket. Mubashir hit eight fours in his 63. Lions got back into the game through some accurate bowling by Wasanta.

The New Pak batsmen, however, stuck on till the end and managed to get past the victory target with one wicket to spare.

Pervaz scored 43 runs.

For Lions, Wasanta took four wickets while Hamza and Alam got one each.

Unity CC trounced Union CC by a wide margin of eight wickets in a Thursday League match played at the KOC New Grounds, Ahmadi.

Union skipper called correctly and elected to bat. His decision seemed to have paid off as skipper Farukh and Saeed, from the start, punished everything coming their way. Farukh, playing very confidently, treated speed and spin alike and with little respect. He scored an unbeaten 93 which included 9 fours. Saeed gave him good support in scoring 32 and when time was called Union had posted an impressive 158/4 in 19 overs. Tariq and Lewis shared the wickets to fall.

Facing this score, any normal

team would have succumbed to the pressure but Unity on the other hand seems to flourish in such situations.

Babar had just one idea in mind and he disclosed it from the first ball he faced. What followed was a display of awesome power and aggression and a treat to all watching as he single handedly tore the Union bowling apart. Six followed six with the utmost ease.

Any sort of move by the opposition only found them retrieving the ball from outside the boundary. Babar cut and drove, booked and pulled as he raced unchecked to an unbeaten 91 n.o. which included 8 sixes and 5 fours.

On the other end, the ever-reliable Abuzahr gave him good support as he made a perfect 48 with 6 fours and 2 sixes. Unity reached the target in just 12 overs losing just 2 wickets in the process.

BOXING

Tyson set to fight Holyfield in June

NEW YORK, Jan 3 (AP): Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield are expected to sign contracts by next week for a June 18 bout that could pay the two heavyweights a record total of \$40 million, representatives of both sides said yesterday.

If the fight generates as much money as promoters hope, champion Tyson could earn \$25 million; and No. 1 challenger Holyfield \$15 million in a battle of unbeaten.

Holyfield's promoters Shelly Finkel and Dan Duva planned to fly today or tomorrow to Las Vegas, Nevada, to meet with Tyson's promoter Don King. The sides hope to sign the contracts before Tyson leaves next week for Tokyo, where he will defend his title Feb 11 against Buster Douglas.

"We're very close," said Finkel, who has been negotiating with King for two weeks to put together the pay-per-view and closed circuit TV bout. "It will probably happen next week."

"There are just some terms that aren't important left to settle."

Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, N.J., and the Mirage and Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nev., are interested in staging the fight and the casino that wins the bidding will probably pay at least a \$11 million site fee. A Japanese group is also interested in holding the bout.

King's boxing director Al Braverman confirmed negotiations are running smoothly for the fight. "Talks are going well, Don and Shelly are pretty happy," Braverman said. "Holyfield's the best (challenger) out there."

Tyson would be heavily favoured over Holyfield, perhaps by as much as 7-1 in the opening line.

Tyson, 37-0 with 33 knockouts, last defended his title with a 95-second knockout of Carl "The Truth" Williams July in Atlantic City. Holyfield's last fight was an eighth-round knockout of Alex Stewart Nov 4. Holyfield, 23-0 with 19 knockouts, was undisputed cruiserweight champion before moving up to the heavyweight ranks 18 months ago.

Holyfield, of Atlanta,

Pakistani batting collapses

Aussies score easy win

Bhutto Trophy

NEW PAK Cricket Club meet Quid-e-Millat in the final of the Bhutto Memorial Trophy at the Kheitan Ground tomorrow. The match will start at 9.00 am and Haji Mohammed Afzal Noor, the chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Club, will be the chief guest.

Bulgaria win

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Jan 3. (AP): Bulgaria ended Iran's unbeaten record at the first World Youth Volleyball Championship with a hard-fought 3-0 victory yesterday.

Arias triumphs

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 3. (AP): Jimmy Arias of the United States upset fourth seeded Soviet player Alexander Volkov 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) today to storm into the quarterfinals of the \$150,000 Australian Hard-court Tennis Championships.

English club

LONDON, Jan 3. (Reuters): Ray Harford, who guided Luton to two League Cup final appearances in the past two seasons, parted company with the struggling English First Division soccer club today.

Pressman out

LONDON, Jan 3. (UPI): Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper Kevin Pressman was yesterday ruled out for the rest of the season after undergoing surgery for ruptured knee ligaments. He was carried off after a 63rd minute collision with striker David Oldfield in Wednesday's 2-0 victory against Manchester City at Hillsborough on New Year's Day.

£1m midfielder

LONDON, Jan 3. (UPI): Gary McAllister, Leicester City's £1 million (\$1.5 million) rated Scottish midfielder who is wanted by a number of top clubs, yesterday insisted he would not rush into a transfer.

Title fight

LONDON, Jan 3. (UPI): Glenn McCrory will meet Jeff Larkin of the US in his second defense of the IBF world cruiserweight title in March, it was announced today.

French motorcyclist

MARSEILLE, France, Jan 3. (UPI): Doctors said their prognosis on veteran French motorcyclist Pierre-Marie Poli was "very reserved" today because of head injuries that left him in a deep coma after a spill at high speed during the Paris-Dakar Rally.

Games chairman

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 3. (Reuters): The newly-appointed chairman of the Commonwealth Games Organisation, Sir Earl Richardson, was admitted to hospital on yesterday but officials said his illness would not affect the Games, which begin on Jan 24.

Stableford golf

THE Annual Kuwait Stableford Golf Championship, sponsored by the Toyo Tyres (Abdullah Al Mailem Trading Co.), will be held at the Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club on Jan 11 and 12. Maximum handicaps allowed is 20. Interested participants must send their entries to their respective clubs by Jan 5.

Italian Cup

ROME, Jan 3. (Reuters): Results in the third round of the Italian Soccer Cup today:

Group A		
Roma	3	Ascoli 0
Group B		
Bologna	3	Fiorentina 2
Group D		
Sampdoria	2	Pescara 1

RESULTS of the Hubara Centre Bridge Club game:

N/S
1. Bianca Moussali & Ahmed Tawil
Sharing second: Nabil Akel & S. Chaudhary and Dr Oskay & Mr Moussali

E/W
1. Gajjar & Gawahir
2. Adel & El Baz
3. Lolio Murthwaite & Dona Matery

Kouros suffers problems again

KUWAIT'S Mishal Al Jarallah was a disappointed man after the Dubai Offshore Powerboat Race on Monday, January 1. Despite making it to ninth place and being the second Kuwaiti home, he felt that his Kouros-sponsored boat should have taken a better position.

"We've been having a lot of problems with the centre mounted engine," explained his thirtysomething Ananda Fernando, a competent marine mechanic. The 32-foot long Kouros Cougar Sportcat is powered by triple Mercury 2.4 e.f.i. engines, and has suffered persistent difficulties with the centre unit, although the engines to either side are working perfectly.

Cougar, the manufacturers of the boat, are trying to find a way around the problem, which saw the Kouros team fabricating a special duct to protect the centre propeller in Jordan. The aluminium boat is unique in its format, and a solution will require innovation rather than reliance on tried and tested methods.



Allan Border

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 3. (AP): Captain Allan Border hit an unbeaten 69 today as Australia cruised to a seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in a World Series Cup one-day cricket match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Australia reached 162 for three in response to Pakistan's woeful 161 all out with a full nine overs to spare.

Border was named Man of the Match for his innings, while Steve Waugh contributed 31 in an 81-run partnership.

The Pakistanis were without vice-captain Javed Miandad, who was suffering from a virus, but batted poorly right down the order.

Australian pace bowler Carl Rackemann took three wickets for 21 and only captain Imran Khan resisted with stout-hearted 39.

Australia improved its record in the triangular tournament to 3-0. Sri Lanka is 1-2 and Pakistan 0-2.

Imran Khan won the toss and elected to bat but his batsmen had no answer to Rackemann and Merv Hughes, who bowled 10 overs at a cost of just 16 runs.

Openers Shoaib Mohammad and Aamir Malik were able to

keep out the Australian attack but could not push on and score runs.

The pair laboured for more than 20 overs over an opening stand of 67.

Hughes bowled a superb opening spell of five overs for five runs and Rackemann conceded just 11 runs from his first seven overs. Shoaib wasted 58 deliveries on his 22 and Aamir used up a further 65 balls for his 23 before Rackemann disposed of both openers in his sixth over.

Aamir flicked at Rackemann and was brilliantly caught by wicketkeeper Ian Healy and then Shoaib was caught by Healy trying to glance.

Mansoor Akhtar provided some much-needed impetus in a 40-run stand with Imran but an ambitious sweep at spinner Peter Taylor ended his innings at 32 when he lost his off ball.

Imran was forced to anchor the innings, finishing with 39 in an hour and a half as wickets fell around him.

Ijaz Ahmed did not respond to Imran's call and was run out by David Boon and Boon later effected his second run out, hitting the stumps from long off to get rid of Maqsood Rana, son of umpire Shakoor Rana.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN
Aamir Malik c Healy b Rackemann 23
Shoaib Mohammad c Healy b Rackemann 22
Mansoor Akhtar b Taylor 3
Saeed Anwar c Marsh b Taylor 3
Imran Khan c Hughes b O'Donnell 39
Ijaz Ahmed run out 3
Wasim Akram c Taylor b Rackemann 8
Abdul Qadir c Border b Alderman 1
Maqsood Rana run out 5
Nadeem Ghouri not out 7
Aaqib Javed run out 1
Extras (lb-8 w-8 nb-1) 17
Total (50 overs) 161

Fall of wickets: 1-56 2-59 3-67 4-107 5-115 6-136 7-138 8-148 9-156

Bowling: Hughes 10-3-16-0, Alderman 10-2-31-1 (2w), Rackemann 10-2-21-3 (1nb), O'Donnell 9-0-43-1 (6w), Taylor 10-0-36-2, Waugh 1-0-6-0.

AUSTRALIA
D. Boon b Ghouri 39
G. Marsh c Aamir b Wasim 3
D. Jones c Aaqib 2
A. Border not out 69
S. Waugh not out 31
Extras (7b 8lb 2w 1nb) 18
Total 162 for three

Fall of wickets: 6, 17, 81.

Bowling: Wasim Akram 10-1-24-1 (1nb), Aaqib Javed 8-0-30-1 (2w), Maqsood Rana 2-0-11-0, Imran Khan 7-0-29-0, Nadeem Ghouri 10-3-30-1, Abdul Qadir 4-0-23-0.

Batting time: 164 minutes. Overs 41. Attendance 52,813.

Suns beat Knicks at home

NEW YORK, Jan 3. (AP): Kevin Johnson scored 11 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter as the Phoenix Suns snapped New York's nine-game winning streak with a 113-99 victory and became the first team to beat the Knicks at home this season.

Eddie Johnson scored 22 points and Jeff Hornacek 20 last night for the Suns, who have won three of four road games after losing their first seven away from home this season.

Bullets 110, Nets 96
Jeff Malone scored 23 points, Bernard King had 20 and Mel Turpin chipped in with 14 in his first start of the season as the Bullets broke a five-game losing streak with a 110-96 victory over New Jersey.

The Bullets, who got 13 points from Malone in the opening

period, led 35-18 after one quarter and stayed comfortably in front the rest of the way. New Jersey has lost three straight and six of its last seven.

Clippers 87, Timberwolves 79
Charles Smith hit two straight baskets to break a late tie and the Clippers won their first road game after 10 losses, 87-79.

Minnesota, who has lost 12 of its last 13 games, scored a team record-low 30 second-half points. The Expansion club's only offensive threat was Tony Campbell, who scored 31.

Pistons 115, Magic 113
Bill Laimbeer had 26 points and Detroit scored 15 of its last 17 points from the free-throw line. Laimbeer scored 14 points in the second half and had the only field goal in the last six minutes for the NBA champions in a

115-113 victory.

James Edwards had 21 points and Joe Dumars added 19 for Detroit, which hit 15 of 18 free throws down the stretch to win for the sixth time in seven games.

Hawks 113, Bucks 107
Moses Malone scored 31 points, including four free throws in the last minute to seal the victory. Malone, who was 17-for-17 at the free-throw line, pulled down 14 rebounds and tied his season high for points as Atlanta broke the Bucks' five-game winning streak, 113-107.

RESULTS

Atlanta	113	Milwaukee	107
Detroit	115	Orlando	113
Washington	110	New Jersey	96
L.A. Clippers	87	Minnesota	79
Phoenix	113	New York	99
Dallas	110	Indiana	106
Golden State	133	Utah	120
Portland	119	Miami	95

Hain warns rebels of 'explosive situation'

LONDON, Jan 3. (Reuters): A leading anti-apartheid campaigner has warned the England cricket rebels they face a "potentially explosive situation" and disturbances similar to the anti-apartheid protests in England 20 years ago when they began their tour of South Africa later this month.

Peter Hain, organiser of the 1969-70 protests against a South African tour to Britain, has written to rebel tour captain Mike Gatting following a fact-finding trip to the republic.

Urging the players to call off their controversial tour, Hain writes: "You and your colleagues may be completely unaware of the potentially explosive situation which will greet you."

After pointing out that black cricketers and officials were opposed to the tour, Hain says

they can "expect to be dogged by demonstrations," similar to those which forced the cancellation of the 1970 South African tour.

He adds: "From my findings and discussions it is quite clear that there is a real threat to the tour and possibly to the safety of your team."

"In response the government and police will offer you full protection. I am quite certain the only way protesters will be held at bay is by surrounding the grounds with police and placing a police barrier between the spectators inside and the police. The dignity of the game will be irrevocably damaged."

Hain says protesters might be injured "or even killed," as a result of the police action.

The itinerary for the tour has yet to be released.

IOC to meet S. Africans

LONDON, Jan 3. (AP): The first step towards ending South Africa's 20-year isolation in international sports will be taken next week when the country's white-dominated National Olympic Committee meets with International Olympic Committee advisers.

After years of lobbying but no formal talks, members of the South African National Olympic Committee will sit down with officials of the IOC's commission for apartheid in Paris next Tuesday.

An IOC adviser described the talks today as preliminary discussions aimed at resuming official links between South Africa and world sports. He said there was still a long way to go before sports boycotts against the racially separated country were reduced or eliminated.

The IOC expelled South Africa in 1970 because of its policies of racial discrimination and their impact on sports. Since then, South Africa has been barred by almost every major international sports federation.

"The circumstances in South Africa are changing," said Sam Ramsamy, one of two members of the IOC commission attending the Paris meeting.



Chess tourney

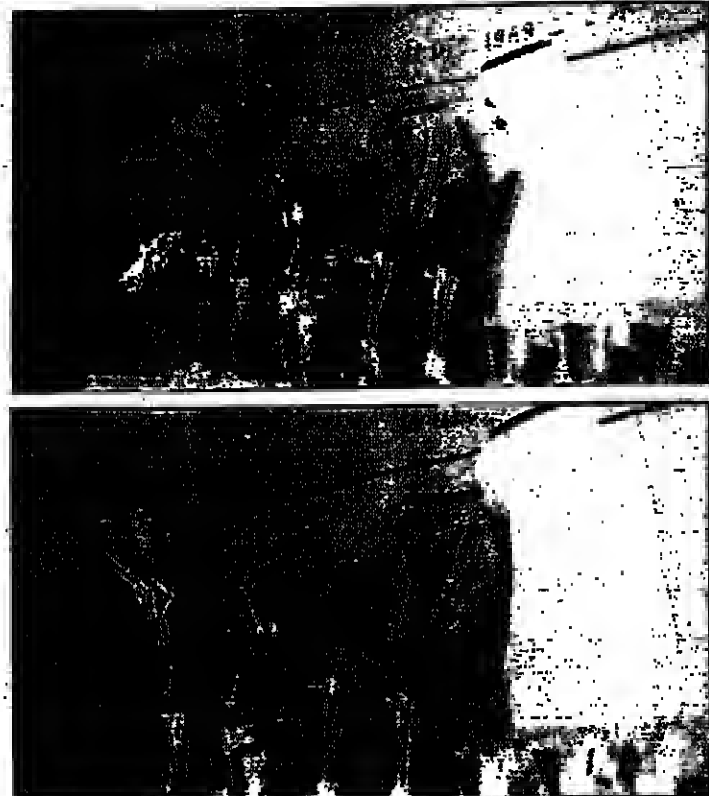
THE prize distribution ceremony of the Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Memorial Chess Tournament was late Tuesday evening at the SAS Hotel.

The championship, which concluded earlier on the same day, was held under the patronage of the Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, who deputised Sheikh Bader Sabah Al Salem to attend the prize distribution on his behalf.

The prize distribution ceremony was also attended by the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry Undersecretary for Youth Affairs, Abdul Rahman Al Mazroui.

Above: the winners with the tournament officials and the chief guest.

Right: two of the winners receive their prizes from Sheikh Bader Al Sabah Al Salem. (Photos by Javed Basra)



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